

Health ministers meet in Tunis

TUNIS (I.T.) — An extraordinary session of Arab health ministers council began here Friday to discuss health conditions in the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon following militia attacks on these camps and to look into ways for supplying medical care to the refugees. Jordan's delegation to the council's meeting is led by Health Minister Zaid Hamzah, who said in a statement before leaving Amman on Thursday that the council will discuss the situation in the camps and the means for dispatching urgent food and medical relief supplies to the victims. The council's meeting came in response to a call by Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Awad, chairman of the council's executive bureau. Dr. Hamzah said. He said that the meeting, due to last several days, will be attended by ministers from Kuwait, Tunis, Iraq and Bahrain in addition to Jordan.

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Italy revokes warrant against Arafat

ROME (R) — An Italian court Friday revoked an arrest warrant which a magistrate issued last year against the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Yasser Arafat. Venice Magistrate Carlo Mastelloni issued the warrant against Mr. Arafat on suspicion that the PLO furnished weapons to Italy's Red Brigades leftist guerrilla group in 1979. The accusations, which the PLO has denied, stemmed from allegations of imprisoned Red Brigades members. The court said there was insufficient evidence to show that Mr. Arafat was involved in an alleged deal between the PLO and the Red Brigades. The warrant which the court revoked Friday was the second issued by Mr. Mastelloni. The first was overturned because of procedural irregularities.

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Austrian president lauds Jordan's policy

AMMAN (Petra) — Austrian President Rudolf Kirchschlaeger has praised the wise policy and efforts of His Majesty King Hussein and his endeavours towards establishing just and durable peace in the region. President Kirchschlaeger was receiving the Jordanian ambassador to Austria Hani Khalifeh on the occasion of the end of his term in office in Vienna. The Austrian leader also asked Mr. Khalifeh to convey his greetings to King Hussein.

Lower House to convene on July 2

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament is to meet on Tuesday July 2, in accordance with an announcement by House speaker Akel Al Fayez. It was also announced that the House's legal committee will meet on Sunday July 30 to study a number of draft laws referred to the committee by the House.

Arab satellite in position

AMMAN (Petra) — The second Arab satellite reached its final destination Wednesday, at a height of 36,000 kilometres above the equator. Director-General Telecommunication Corporation Mohammad Shahid Ismail said Thursday. Mr. Ismail, who was speaking after receiving telephone calls from Arab Satellite Corporation Director-General Ali Mashat and the satellite's operations room in New York, told the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that all the satellite's equipment was functioning well.

PLO thanks Libya for support during Amal siege of camps

BEIRUT (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has thanked Libya for supporting it during recent fighting in Lebanon between Palestinians and Lebanese militiamen, the Libyan news agency (JANA) said Thursday. The agency, monitored in Beirut, said PLO Political Department chief Farouk Kaddoumi had conveyed the thanks in a message to Libyan Foreign Minister Ali Abdol Salam Al Fureik. "The Palestinian people will always remember the attitude of the leader of the great September revolution, Muammar Qadhafi, and the Libyan Arab people at this difficult stage of the Palestinian peoples' struggle," Mr. Kaddoumi was quoted as saying.

Israel jails 7 Palestinians

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli military court has sentenced seven Palestinians from the occupied West Bank to prison terms of three to 10 years for throwing firebombs at Israeli vehicles, a military spokesman said Friday. Imad Mahmoud Fifel, 22, from El Bireh, received a 10-year sentence for leading the gang, he said. The other youths, from El Bireh and the Al Amari refugee camp north of Jerusalem, were sentenced to three to four years.

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Berri says TWA hijack crisis could be solved in 2 days

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanese Shi'ite leader Nabih Berri said Friday U.S. President Ronald Reagan and President Hafez Al Assad of Syria had exchanged messages on the U.S. hostage crisis and he believed the issue could be resolved within two days.

"It seems there are messages between Reagan and Assad on the subject but so far I have no details," Mr. Berri told reporters. "I said yesterday that within 72 hours there would be a solution and I am still of that opinion," he added.

Asked if that meant within 48 hours from now, he said "Yes". Mr. Berri is negotiating for hijackers who seized a Trans World Airlines (TWA) plane over Greece two weeks ago.

The hijackers are seeking freedom for 735 prisoners held by Israel in return for 39 American hostages.

Mr. Berri said he had asked for a medical report from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on the health of one of the Americans, Simon Grossmayer, before deciding whether to release him. He was still in captivity.

Earlier, Beirut Radio reported that the 57-year-old Grossmayer, who has only one lung, had already been released.

Government sources quoted a

United Nations envoy mediating the 15-day-old hostage crisis as saying that an agreement "is likely to emerge within 24 hours."

The emissary, Jean-Claude Aime, left Beirut for Israel on Friday after meeting with Mr. Berri, according to the sources, who requested anonymity.

The sources told the AP he also visited Damascus Thursday. But U.N. headquarters in New York denied he had been to the Syrian capital.

One source said that if Mr. Aime's talks in Israel were successful, the American hijack captives will be flown to Damascus under U.N. supervision within 48 hours. They will be freed when Lebanese prisoners return home from Israel.

Meanwhile, Ghassan Siblani, a key member of Amal politburo and its security chief, urged the United States to formally ask for his movement's help in obtaining the release of seven other Americans kidnapped in Beirut since March 1984.

"Amal is not part of (the kid-

nappings), but we'd like to help," Mr. Siblani said in an interview. "But we have had no formal request."

"All we've had is a speech by Secretary of State (George) Shultz that he wants the 46 Americans released, but that was not a request."

Mr. Siblani told the AP that Amal was in contact with the kidnappers, believed to be mainly extremists of the shadowy "Islamic Jihad" group.

But Mr. Berri later said: "I have no control at all" on the kidnappers and that he has "no information on them."

In an interview with the American ABC Mr. Berri appealed to President Reagan "to deal with this affair like a father" and to refrain from using force.

Washington has not responded publicly to Mr. Berri, except to call for the unconditional release of the 39 hostages and seven other Americans among 12 Westerners kidnapped in Beirut before the hijack.

"There has been a readiness to compromise by both sides, but both are sticking to their main principles," a diplomat said.

After freeing another hostage, Jimmy Dell Palmer, on Wednesday, Mr. Berri said he was

(Continued on page 3)

U.S. swells hostages' release; Shi'ite leaders plan Beirut mission, page 2

Reagan urges support of Jordan's peace efforts

AMMAN (Agencies) — U.S. President Ronald Reagan has urged Arab states to support Jordan's Middle East peace efforts in an interview with a Lebanese magazine.

He told Al Hawadess, a London-based Arabic weekly, that his September 1982 Middle East peace plan was "still on the table". The interview was conducted by the prominent Kuwait-based Palestinian journalist Nasseriddeen Nashashibi. It appeared in Jordan's Sawt Al Shaab daily on Thursday.

The 1982 Reagan plan, for Palestinian self-rule on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, was rejected by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Mr. Reagan noted a strong drive towards peace in the region. He said Arab recognition of Israel's right to exist and direct Arab-Israeli peace negotiations were essential prerequisites for a peaceful settlement.

"It's King Hussein's right to know that the other Arabs support

him. All we are trying to do is to get the parties concerned together," Mr. Reagan was quoted as saying.

Jordan and the PLO are jointly offering peace in return for the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. But they are opposed by hardline Arab states such as Syria and Libya and rebel factions of the PLO.

Mr. Reagan said he opposed participation by Moscow in the Middle East peace process, saying it was "unconstructive".

He also voiced reservations over the idea of an international Middle East peace conference. "This would become a political theatre incapable of providing solutions... we believe only direct negotiations can produce real results," he said.

The president called for direct peace negotiations between Israel and Iraq in the 57-nation Old Gulf War.

Full excerpts from Mr. Reagan's interview will be published in tomorrow's edition of the Jordan Times.

Search vessel locates bulk of Air India wreckage

CORK, Ireland (Agencies) — A British navy ship Friday located the bulk of the wreckage of the Air India Jumbo jet that crashed off Ireland with 329 passengers and crew five days ago, an Irish government spokesman said.

The spokesman, who declined to be identified, told the AP the wreckage was located by HMS Challenger, a seabed survey vessel, in the search area 200 kilometres southwest of Ireland.

He told reporters he did not know whether it might contain the "black box" flight recorders, vital to determining whether the plane was blown up by a bomb.

He said Challenger was continuing to pick up a "weak and intermittent" signal that could be coming from one of the recorders.

Until now, air and sea search parties have recovered just a tiny fraction of the wreckage, and only 131 bodies.

On Thursday, investigators said faint radio signals had been detected from the North Atlantic where the plane crashed, but they were not sure whether the flight recorders were the source.

The recorders, thought to be 2,000 metres down on the seabed, should normally emit homing signals for up to one month, but the depth and pressure of water could affect this.

Thirty-one relatives of the victims of the crash were due in Cork Friday in hopes of identifying bodies recovered from the Atlantic.

Ninety relatives of the victims have gone to Ireland on their own and were in Cork to identify the bodies.

An Air India official said India has sent intelligence agents to Canada and Japan to help probe the possibility a bomb could have caused the crash.

The Air India official told Reuters teams of investigators from India's external intelligence organisation, the Research and Analysis Wing, security men and aviation experts had arrived in Ottawa and Tokyo. He did not give details (Canada agrees to work with India against terrorism, page 8).

Canadian police are also hunting two Sikhs identified as Lal Singh and Ammand Singh.



A minibus lies on its side after overturning in an accident near the Baqa'a camp in which 5 were killed and 19 injured (Petra photo)

5 killed, 19 injured in accident

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A tragic accident claimed the lives of five people and injured 19 others on Friday, Civil Defence Department (CDD) operations officer Colonel Deeb Ma'ani said. Col. Ma'ani said the casualties had been rushed to various medical institutions.

A police source in the Baqa'a area told the Jordan Times that the University of Jordan hospital received six casualties and the four bodies are kept in the hospital's morgue. The sources added that another injured person was under intensive care treatment at Al Hussein Medical Centre while

another seven cases were being hosted at Al Hussein Hospital in Salt.

The source said the accident, which took place on the road from Baqa'a camp to Rumayna, occurred due to an "error in judgement" by the bus driver.

The bus, transporting people to a wedding party, overturned at a spot opposite the Jordan satellite station near the Baqa'a camp. The bus was on the road to Um Al Dananir village on the outskirts of Amman.

According to police, the accident occurred when the bus was climbing a slope and a car, coming from the opposite direction, appeared to be heading for a collision

with the bus. The bus driver sought to avert a head-on collision and swerved to the right but a steep shoulder on the road side caused the bus to overturn, instantly killing four of its passengers. Another passenger died in hospital later.

Police said six of the injured were in "very critical condition."

In Jabal Al Hussein on Friday, a fire broke out at an empty house after a gas cylinder explosion.

Residents of the house were reported to have been out at the time of the accident. CDD rushed to the fire site and brought the fire under control. No casualties were reported but the fire caused severe damages.

Joint moves aim at world support for peace, PLO says

Majali: France supports Feb. 11 accord

PARIS (Agencies) — The current joint Jordanian-Palestinian moves aim at securing support of influential international powers for efforts to achieve a just and durable peace in the Middle East in accordance with international legitimacy, a senior aide to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Friday.

Khaled Al Hassan, member of the PLO Central Committee and director of the Palestine National Council (PNC) Foreign Affairs Department, in an interview with Radio Monte Carlo, said joint Jordan-PLO delegations will visit a number of countries "which can influence the international pol-

icy."

Mr. Hassan, a member of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation currently in Paris for talks with French leaders on the Feb. 11 Jordan-PLO agreement, underlined the European Community's (EC) "vital role" in the

(Continued on page 3)

Iraq says it destroyed 200 ships in 3 years

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said its warplanes hit a naval target in the Gulf Friday, and the commander of Iraqi naval defences said his forces had destroyed 200 ships off the Iranian coast during the past three years.

The Iraqi Navy Agency (INA) said Iraqi warplanes hit a large naval target — a term used in the past to describe oil tankers — at 0920 a.m. (0520 GMT) near Iran's main oil terminal at Kharg Island in the northern Gulf.

The Iraqi aircraft all returned safely to base, it said.

It was the fourth such attack reported by Iraq this month. The last independently-confirmed attack was on a Turkish tanker after it had loaded at Kharg on May 1.

The commander of Iraq's naval and coastal defence, who was not named by INA, said ships destroyed during the past three years included half of the Iranian navy.

Frigates, mine-sweepers, tugboats and patrol boats were among Iranian ships destroyed, he said in an interview.

He said all ships were hit inside an Iraqi-imposed no-go area stretching east and southeast from Iraq's port of Fao, at the northern tip of the Gulf.

On Thursday, Iran and Iraq both claimed successes in latest Gulf war fighting across the marshlands of southern Iraq.

Baghdad said its troops seized back part of the oil-rich Majnoon Islands from Iranians stationed there since a major offensive 16 months ago.

Tehran meanwhile reported an attack in the marshlands on Tuesday night in which it said it killed more than 100 Iraqi soldiers and seized new territory.

Marshes cover much of the extensive southern waterfront, and the two operations may not have been in the same area.

An Iraqi military spokesman said the Third Army Corps launched "Operation Lightning Wrath" at 4 a.m. (2400 GMT) on a 1,200 metre wide front in the Majnoon Islands.

Bush: Soviets continue missile deployments

BRUSSELS (R) — U.S. Vice-President George Bush said Friday the Soviet Union had continued to deploy SS-20 medium-range missiles despite a unilateral freeze proclaimed by Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev in April.

He also said the NATO allies unanimously supported increased efforts to fight "international terrorism". Some felt retribution was appropriate but most were cautioning the United States against retaliation for the Beirut hostage crisis, he said.

Mr. Bush told a news conference after a two-hour meeting with NATO's council of ambassadors that new figures to be published later Friday would show the number of SS-20s continued to rise.

"You will see they have gone up. My interpretation is that they don't feel inhibited in deploying their SS-20s... there isn't the restraint that perhaps has been advised out of the Soviet Union," he said.

NATO sources said U.S. intelligence had determined that Moscow had completed one extra missile base since Mr. Gorbachev's April 7 announcement of a six-month moratorium, raising the SS-20 tally to 423 from 414.

Mr. Bush repeated he was confident that the Netherlands would follow through on a decision to deploy U.S. cruise nuclear missiles, providing the Soviet Union has deployed more SS-20s by November than it based last June.

Mr. Bush said President Reagan was deeply committed to achieving arms reductions in arms control talks with the Soviet Union. He later flew to Geneva for scheduled meetings with the U.S. and Soviet negotiators.

Asked about an apparent hint by Mr. Gorbachev that Moscow might walk out of the talks if the United States persisted with its "Star Wars" space weapons research programme (see page 8), he said: "I think the matter is so serious that threats are not the way to do business."

Joint foreign policy figures high in EC Milan summit

MILAN, Italy (R) — European Community (EC) leaders Friday opened a two-day summit seen as the last chance to carry out vital reforms streamlining decision-making before Spanish and Portuguese entry next year.

But diplomats and officials said the meeting was only likely to approve in principle ideas for wider foreign policy coordination which did not go to the heart of the community's problems.

Britain on the one hand and France and West Germany on the other have submitted largely identical plans for a common community foreign and security policy.

Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers told reporters such plans "threaten to divert attention from what is really at stake". The Netherlands and a majority of other members want the summit to agree reforms improving cumbersome decision-making procedures, and strengthening the European commission and parliament.

Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, chairing his last summit before handing over the community's rotating presidency to Luxembourg on July 1, warmly welcomed the Spanish and Portuguese prime ministers who are attending a summit for the first time, as observers, before joining formally on Jan. 1.

He spoke of their entry as enriching the European grouping although diplomats said he and other leaders had stressed that the summit's first priority was to ensure the efficient working of the community after enlargement.

They said the chances of agreeing reforms to smooth decision-making were not bright. The most that could be hoped for was agreement on the broad lines of possible reforms, postponing final decisions to the community's December summit in Luxembourg.

The diplomats said the meeting here might agree on the need to conclude a special agreement putting present foreign policy co-

ordination on a more formal basis, but again leaving details to the Luxembourg summit.

The Franco-German announcement Thursday that the two countries were submitting a joint draft for a new treaty on European union astonished diplomats already familiar with similar British ideas. Both West German and French officials Friday appeared to play down the importance of the draft.

Diplomats said French leaders were saying privately its main significance was to show Bonn and Paris were still able to work together as partners despite disagreements at the Western economic summit in Bonn last month.

Jordan expresses dismay, rejects Kuwait speaker's allegations, accusations

Fayez hands over protest message to ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has expressed deep resentment and dismay and rejected allegations and accusations levelled against it by the speaker of Kuwait's parliament, Ahmad Al Sa'doun, in a speech to Kuwaiti deputies on Tuesday.

Jordan's reaction was contained in a message sent to Mr. Sa'doun by Akef Al Fayez, speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, who voiced his protest and condemnation and that of the parliament members against Mr. Sa'doun's speech attacking Jordan along with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and other Arab countries.

The message, handed to Kuwaiti Ambassador to Jordan Ibrahim Al Baho, said that Mr. Sa'doun's speech "breached all norms of close brotherly ties and coordination and cooperation that have characterised relations between Jordan and Kuwait and constituted a violation of the higher policies adopted by both countries and represents a contradiction of

all resolutions taken by consensus at Arab summit meetings."

The message said "Jordan has heard with dismay the contents of Mr. Sa'doun's speech to parliament on June 25 and regrets the reference to the joint Jordanian-PLO efforts in the United States as a prelude to direct contacts with Israel."

"Jordan, which guards the longest confrontation line with the Israeli enemy, has been struggling with all its power to restore Arab rights in Palestine, and will continue to do so with the purpose of helping the Palestinians regain their legitimate rights in their homeland," the message affirmed.

It said that Jordan "feels proud to stand as a barrier, preventing Israel from achieving its ambitions

in Arab territory and Arab oil fields."

"Jordan's policy emanates from its firm and solid national orientation, and its struggle on the regional and international levels are based on Arab principles and resolutions taken at Arab summit meetings that aim at bolstering Arab defences," the message pointed out.

"As to the Kuwaiti financial assistance to Jordan referred to in the speech, this should be understood as it is an Arab national commitment to Jordan in implementation of Arab summit resolutions to enable Jordan to enhance its steadfastness and pursue the national struggle in defence of the Arab Nation," the message added.

Mr. Fayez sent copies of the message to speakers of all Arab parliaments.

See Arab press editorials on page 4



ARAFAT LEAVES: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who left for Tunis Friday after talks with Prime Minister Rifai, is seen off upon departure by Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Hazem Nusseibeh and Occupied Territories Affairs Taher Kana'an (Petra photo)



Elias Sarkis (1924-1985)

Sarkis dies in Paris

PARIS (R) — Former Lebanese President Elias Sarkis, who held office from 1976 to 1982, died at his Paris home Thursday, a Lebanese embassy spokesman said.

Mr. Sarkis, who was 61 and a Maronite Christian, had been treated for an undisclosed illness in France and died in his sleep Thursday morning, the spokesman said.

His elected successor was Bashir Gemayel, who was killed in a bomb attack less than a month after his victory at the polls and before taking office. Mr. Gemayel's older brother Amin was then elected and took over from Mr. Sarkis.

Mr. Sarkis came to office in September 1976 with Syrian backing at the height of the Lebanese civil war and stepped down six years later as Israeli invasion troops ringed Beirut.

Before becoming president, Mr. Sarkis had been governor of the central bank since 1967 and gained a reputation for keeping the Lebanese currency and banking system afloat during the first explosive year of the civil war.

He failed in an earlier bid for the presidency in 1970. He was born on June 20, 1924, in Mount Lebanon, the eldest of three sons, and trained as a lawyer before entering public service. He never married.

U.S. Shi'ites plan mission to Beirut on hostage crisis

DETROIT (R) — Leaders of the largest Shi'ite Muslim community in the United States said Thursday they planned to go to Beirut next week to try to help the American hostages.

"Our goal is to maintain contact with the hostages and to assure their safety and the importance of their returning home," said Nassib Fawaz, chairman of the Islamic Centre of America in Detroit.

Mr. Fawaz said he and other representatives of the estimated 20,000 Shi'ites in Detroit and neighbouring towns will leave on Monday and carry letters, postcards and photographs to the 39 Americans seized two weeks ago in a hijacking over Greece.

Lebanese Shi'ite leader Nabih Berri, who is negotiating the release of the Americans, has close ties to the Detroit Shi'ites. He has visited them frequently and his former wife and six children live in nearby Dearborn.

Mr. Fawaz said he conferred with the State Department Wednesday and was told the U.S. opposed outside participation in negotiations but would not try to block the trip.

"They (U.S. officials) just said 'good luck ... (and) do what you can,'" Mr. Fawaz said.

He did not say how many community leaders would go.

All arrives in Israel

Meanwhile, former world heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali arrived in Israel Thursday to seek the release of 735 Lebanese detainees whose freedom has been demanded by the captors of the American hostages in Beirut.

"I am here in the name of God, the Most Merciful and Compassionate," Ali, a convert to Islam, told reporters.

"I wish peace for all the inhabitants of Israel," he said. "I am here to discuss the release and the plight of 700 Muslim brothers of mine who are detained here in Israel."

Asked if he was also concerned with the release of the 39 American hostages in Beirut, Ali said, "I'm not here for that problem."

Israeli newspapers had reported that Ali sought a mediation role in efforts to free the Beirut captives.

Former CIA official links TWA hijack to Syria, Iran

WASHINGTON (R) — Syria and Iran should be held responsible by the United States for the continued captivity of 39 American hostages in Beirut, according to the authors of a report on "state-sponsored terrorism."

"The whole group is in a way held hostage by forces in (Lebanon's) Bekaa Valley" which is occupied by Syrian forces, said Ray Cline, a former deputy director at the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

"There is a state element in the incident," Mr. Cline told a news conference Thursday called to launch his report on "state-sponsored terrorism" undertaken with Yonah Alexander at the request of the U.S. army.

But while Mr. Cline said Syria and Iran both had links to the militant Amal Shi'ite faction Hezbollah (Party of God), which was said to be behind the June 14 hijacking, he believed it was in Syria's interest to help end the crisis now.

"Syria fears that President Reagan ... might re-intervene — at least temporarily — with a military force in Lebanon," he said.

"That would be a setback for Syria, which clearly wants to control Lebanon."

Mr. Reagan withdrew U.S. forces from Lebanon after a bomb attack in October 1983 killed more than 240 servicemen.

Mr. Cline said he hoped the president's handling of the crisis was the "correct mix of carrot and stick" — flexibility of approach

backed by an implicit threat of force.

"Syria and possibly Iran, and maybe Libya — the other wild card in state-sponsored terrorism — are susceptible to military force used against them as a last resort," he said.

Mr. Cline said he was confident the hostages would be released in "a fairly short time unless the situation deteriorated."

Rafsanjani holds talks with Chinese president

PEKING (Agencies) — Iranian leader Hashemi Rafsanjani conferred with President Li Xianbian on Friday and Mr. Rafsanjani's official spokesman told reporters that Mr. Li "reiterated our long history of relations, existing since centuries ago."

He also quoted the Chinese leader as expressing support for the positions adopted by the Islamic republic, including "self sufficiency and independence from the superpowers."

It was not clear whether Mr. Li and Mr. Rafsanjani discussed the five-year-old Iran-Iraq war. China has called for a negotiated settlement to the conflict and denied reports that it sells weapons to Iran and Iraq.

The 50-year-old speaker of Iran's parliament arrived Thursday with a large entourage of religious and political figures, the first high-powered delegation from Iran since the Islamic revolution in 1979.

He is scheduled to meet China's senior leader Deng Xiaoping on Saturday and give a news conference later, Iranian diplomats said.

Premier Zhao Ziyang and Mr. Rafsanjani had two hours of formal talks on Thursday.

Western diplomats had said the talks were likely to cover possible Chinese arms sales to Iran and Chinese strategic interests in the Middle East.

Helsinki statement defends Finnish unit in UNIFIL

HELSINKI (R) — Finland Thursday defended the role of its troops serving with the United Nations in southern Lebanon, saying they acted correctly in an incident in which 21 of them spent a week as hostages of an Israeli-backed militia.

An official statement declared: "The Finnish U.N. battalion has acted strictly according to the standard operating procedures of UNIFIL (the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon) in the situation which led to the hostage incident."

The government neither admitted nor denied a report in an Israeli newspaper that Finnish UNIFIL troops staged a mock attack in helping 11 militiamen of the "South Lebanese Army (SLA)" defect.

The Jerusalem Post said Wednesday the Finns shot over the heads of the SLA members, then captured and disarmed them.

Thursday's statement said Finland "has been informed of all details during the publishing of the final report of the U.N. board of inquiry has been delayed."

Britain gives Syrian diplomat two weeks to leave country

LONDON (R) — A Syrian diplomat who upset Britain's Queen Elizabeth by ignoring a court order to quit his London flat is to be expelled, the Foreign Office said Thursday.

Minister of State Richard Luce made the request at a meeting with the Syrian ambassador, emphasising that the dispute was not with his government but with Ahmad Walid Rajab, a counsellor at the embassy, a spokesman said.

He has been given two weeks to leave.

Mr. Rajab claimed diplomatic immunity to defy the court order and remain in the West London

flat, which he rented for six months in 1982.

The family which owned the flat enlisted the queen's help and Mr. Rajab was subsequently told to quit the flat or the country.

Although Mr. Rajab responded to the ultimatum by moving out of the flat earlier this month, the government said it still wanted Syria to withdraw him. Syria has failed to respond.

The Foreign Office said Mr. Rajab abused his diplomatic privilege, a sensitive issue in Britain since a policewoman was killed by shots fired from the Libyan embassy here last year.

Jordan deplores Libyan alliance with Iran, urges support of Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has strongly condemned a recent Libyan-Iranian communique in which both countries pledged to form a military alliance against Iraq, and urged all Arab countries to support Iraq and to take firm stands in the face of Libya's breaches of Arab defence pact and other principles laid down in the Arab League Charter.

An official spokesman for the Foreign Ministry in Amman said the communique in Tripoli following a visit to Libya by the speaker of the Iranian parliament, Hashemi Rafsanjani, "constitutes a flagrant violation of Arab League resolutions and the Arab defence pact, and represents a clear military support by Libya for Iran in its aggression on Iraq, a sister Arab country which has been struggling to repel Iran's aggression and thwart its ambitions in Arab territory."

"The Libyan move represents a serious and dangerous development, something deeply regretted and deplored by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan," the spokesman said.

He said that "Iraq has been waging a heroic war against Iran to defend the Arab Nation against aggression and Iranian ambitions, and therefore Jordan underlines the need for all Arab states to render all possible backing for Iraq to safeguard its territory and to defend the Arab Nation."

Iraq Wednesday severed diplomatic relations with Libya following the signing of the "strategic alliance" between Iran and Libya. That alliance was announced in a

joint communique on Tuesday which reaffirmed Libya's "staunch support" for Iran in its war with Iraq.

Jordan severed diplomatic relations with Libya after the Jordanian embassy was stormed and set ablaze by a group of Libyan demonstrators in early 1984.

Iraq had severed relations with Libya in 1981 after it became clear that Libya supported Iran in the Gulf war which erupted in September 1980.

However, Libya maintained a representative in Baghdad since then and Wednesday's Iraqi statement said all representatives of Libya were asked to leave Iraq.

The Baghdad statement said it was withdrawing Iraqi recognition of Libya as a member of the Arab League.

U.S. awaits 'hostages' release, but businessmen cash in

NEW YORK (R) — U.S. entrepreneurs are moving quickly to cash in on the Beirut hostage crisis as the drama enters its third week. Two country and western songs, one patriotic and the other a mockery of the 39 hostages' Shi'ite captors, are being aired on radio and the records are being rushed to stores.

An \$8 hostage T-shirt is selling "like crazy" in California, its makers said. The shirt's slogan says: "Free the Hostages — send Rambo to Beirut," a reference to a popular film about a Vietnam

veteran bent on regaining lost American honour.

Badge and banner-makers are sure to join in and more than one publishing house was considering a quick book on the crisis.

News of the hostage crisis, which began on June 14 with the seizure of a Trans World Airlines (TWA) plane over Greece, remains virtually impossible to avoid.

The story unfolds daily on the front pages of newspapers, and television networks continue to interrupt afternoon soap operas and prime-time dramas with spe-

cial reports.

Recent reports of official optimism and television footage of the hostages saying they are in good shape appear to have relaxed the nation's mood.

In the early days, especially after the murder of a U.S. navy diver on the plane, much of the nation seethed with rage and calls for "revenge" were frequent and fierce.

But now exclamations such as "they'll be home soon" or "they're okay" are much more likely to be heard.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	23:00	23:05	23:10	23:15	23:20	23:25	23:30	23:35	23:40	23:45	23:50	23:55	24:00
MAIN CHANNEL	Koran	Children Programs	The Computer	The Oddsities	Programme Review	Arabic Series (weekly)	News in Arabic	Arabic Series	Tomorrow's Programmes	Arabic Play	Arabic Series	Arabic Play	Religious Programme and signing off
FOREIGN CHANNEL	17:30 German Programme	18:00 French Programme: des chiffres et des lettres	18:30 The Cole des fans	19:00 News in Hebrew	20:00 News in Arabic	21:00 Vietnam	22:00 Saturday Variety Show	22:15 Feature Film: Someone Watching Me	22:30 Lauren Hutton	22:45 David Birney	23:00 News Summary	23:05 News Summary	23:10 News Summary
RADIO JORDAN	835 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & party on 95.80 KHz, SW	Tel: 774111-19	07:00 Light Music	07:30 News Summary	08:00 Morning Show	08:30 News Summary	09:00 Pop Session	09:30 Pop Session	10:00 Pop Session	10:30 Pop Session	11:00 Pop Session	11:30 Pop Session	12:00 Pop Session
VOICE OF AMERICA	1260 MW, 7300, 9505, 11740 11925 and 12310 KHz	06:00 News	06:10 VOA Morning	06:30 News Summary	06:40 VOA Morning	06:50 News Summary	07:00 VOA Morning	07:10 News Summary	07:20 VOA Morning	07:30 News Summary	07:40 VOA Morning	07:50 News Summary	08:00 VOA Morning
		08:10 News Summary	08:20 VOA Morning	08:30 News Summary	08:40 VOA Morning	08:50 News Summary	09:00 VOA Morning	09:10 News Summary	09:20 VOA Morning	09:30 News Summary	09:40 VOA Morning	09:50 News Summary	10:00 VOA Morning
		10:10 News Summary	10:20 VOA Morning	10:30 News Summary	10:40 VOA Morning	10:50 News Summary	11:00 VOA Morning	11:10 News Summary	11:20 VOA Morning	11:30 News Summary	11:40 VOA Morning	11:50 News Summary	12:00 VOA Morning
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		16:10 News Summary	16:20 VOA Morning	16:30 News Summary	16:40 VOA Morning	16:50 News Summary	17:00 VOA Morning	17:10 News Summary	17:20 VOA Morning	17:30 News Summary	17:40 VOA Morning	17:50 News Summary	18:00 VOA Morning
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WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	CIRCUS	VIDEO	CINEMA	CULTURAL CENTRES	CHURCHES	MUSEUMS	PRAYER TIMES
Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel: 664240.	* Hungarian circus at Hussein Youth City. 2 performances a day.	* A video drama at 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.	* "La vieille fille" at 7:45 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.	Royal Cultural Centre. Tel: 6610267 American Centre Library. 644371 British Council. 6361478 French Cultural Centre. 637009 Goethe Institute. 641993 Soviet Cultural Centre. 644203 Spanish Cultural Centre. 624049 Turkish Cultural Centre. 639777 Haya Arts Centre. 665195 Hussein Youth City. 6671816 Y.W.C.A. 641793 Y.W.M.C.A. 664251 Amman Municipal Library. 637111 University of Jordan Library. 843555	St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Amman. Tel: 624590. Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Lubdah. 637440. De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Hussein. 661757. Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali. 623541. Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabbal Amman. 625383. Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh. 771331. Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh. 775261. St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. 771751. Armenian International Church (Interdenominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani. 816534. Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jabbal Amman, 6th Circle. (Rev. N. Smir). Tel: 811295.	Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also fossils from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre. Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel: 631760. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabbal Al Qal'a (Chalcedon Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabbal Lubdah. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel: 630129. Meyers' Memorial (Military Museum):	03:51 Fajr 05:32 (Sunrise) Duha 12:39 Dhuhr 16:19 'Asr 18:47 Maghreb 21:30 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	MARITIME TRAFFIC	WEATHER	HOSPITALS	GENERAL
This information is supplied by Alia Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (06) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.	Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port: * Aldabaran * Kosa Sejati * Bremen * Akademik Arisnovich * California * Colar Voyager * Barzan * Tunda * Kompozitor Glinka Amin Kawan and Sons Company, Tel: 622324-9 at your service.	Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. It will be normal summery. Light and variable winds will become north-westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea. Low/high temperature in deg. C: Amman 16/34 Aqaba 23/38 Deserts 18/37 Jordan Valley 22/38 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 33, Aqaba 37. Humidity readings: Amman 26 per cent, Aqaba 20 per cent.	Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Shafiq Maternity, J. Amman 644281/6 Akileh Maternity 644281/6 Jabal Amman Maternity 642362 Palestine, Shmeisani 661714 Shmeisani Hospital 669131 University Hospital 845845/6 Al-Musharraf Hospital 667227/9 The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37 Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6 Italian, Al-Muhajireen 771013 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775112/6 Army, Marka 891611/15	AMMAN: Dr. Walid Sawhneh 779997 Dr. Hani Haddadin 777771 Ninowah pharmacy 623672 Mishri pharmacy 770910 Firas pharmacy 661912 Grand Arabian pharmacy 624051 Rawhi pharmacy 644454 TAXIS: Kayali taxi 656030 Grand Palace taxi 667079 Medical City taxi 813813 Nail taxi 644433 Sahra taxi 622347 Tala taxi 625021 IRBID: Dr. Ali Al-Omari 272032 Al-Far Pharmacy 243661 ZARQA: Dr. Hisham Sharabi 986632 Al Hawaweh pharmacy (-) JORDAN TELEVISION 773111/19 Radio Jordan 774111/19 Ministry of Tourism 642311 Hotel complaints 666412 Price complaints 661176 Telephone Information 12 Jordan and Middle East calls 10 Overseas calls 17 Repair service 11

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES	NIGHT DUTY	MARKET PRICES
Amman governorate 891228 Amman civil defence 198, 199 Civil Defence Unit 271293, 273131 Civil Defence Quswileh 770733 Ambulance 193, 775111 Amman downtown fire brigade 198 First aid 778303 Blood bank 624051 Civil Defence rescue 661111 Fire headquarters 622090-3 Police rescue 192, 621111, 637777 Police headquarters 639171 Traffic police 896390/1 Electric Power Co. 636381-4, 624881 Municipal water complaints 771258 Queen Alia Int. Airport (06) 533060	AMMAN: Dr. Walid Sawhneh 779997 Dr. Hani Haddadin 777771 Ninowah pharmacy 623672 Mishri pharmacy 770910 Firas pharmacy 661912 Grand Arabian pharmacy 624051 Rawhi pharmacy 644454 TAXIS: Kayali taxi 656030 Grand Palace taxi 667079 Medical City taxi 813813 Nail taxi 644433 Sahra taxi 622347 Tala taxi 625021 IRBID: Dr. Ali Al-Omari 272032 Al-Far Pharmacy 243661 ZARQA: Dr. Hisham Sharabi 986632 Al Hawaweh pharmacy (-) JORDAN TELEVISION 773111/19 Radio Jordan 774111/19 Ministry of Tourism 642311 Hotel complaints 666412 Price complaints 661176 Telephone Information 12 Jordan and Middle East calls 10 Overseas calls 17 Repair service 11	Upper/lower price in Jds per kg. Apple (local) 250/180 Apple (American) 320/280 Apricots 280/240 Bananas 280/240 Bananas (Muhannar) 240/210 Beans (local) 180/150 Cabbage 80/60 Carrot (without leaves) 120/100 Cauliflower 120/100 Cucumber (large) 70/50 Cucumber (small) 130/100 Eggplant (large) 90/60 Eggplant (small) 150/100 Garlic 230/160 Lemon 80/70 Mallow 70/50 Marrow (large) 80/50 Marrow (small) 160/120 Onion (dry) 130/80 Parsley 70/70 Peas (American) 450/400 Pepper (sweet) 240/200 Pepper (hot) 280/240 Potatoes 150/120 Radishes 80/50 Sweet Melon 130/100 Tomatoes 90/60 Vine leaves 360/300 Water Melon 90/60

سبيل الى جنة

Queen Noor chairs meeting of Jerash Festival committee

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday presided over a meeting of the Higher National Committee for the Jerash Festival to discuss plans for the fourth festival which is due to open on July 11.

Altogether 21 Arab and friendly countries will participate in the festival's activities which are expected to last for 16 days.

The Queen, who chairs the committee, reviewed with the members final preparations for the opening ceremony at the Greco Roman city and expressed satisfaction with the steps taken so far in the preparations for the festival.

She said that the fourth festival is bound to highlight Jordan's cultural image and will no doubt bol-

ster Jordan's cultural relations with Arab and other friendly nations. Nearly 88 folk and art and cultural troupes will present 257 performances during the festival.

The programme for this coming festival is diverse and, according to committee sources, includes different types of entertainment: Arab and foreign plays for children and adults, local and non-Jordanian traditional, modern and popular poetry and music, songs and dances, classical and popular jazz, rock and roll, western and folk music, all representing a variety of local, regional and international traditions and cultures. There will also be exhibitions featuring handicrafts, modern art and an Iraqi fashion parade.

Work on national cancer centre expected to start next year

AMMAN (Petra) — Work on the first stage of the Al Amal (hope) centre for the treatment of cancer will start next year, following the completion of all the necessary plans. President of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Abdullah Al Khatib announced Friday.

Addressing a gathering and special ceremony held Friday to thank students who took part in the "knock the door" campaign to raise funds towards the establishment of the centre, Dr. Khatib said that deaths as a result of cancer rank second to deaths resulting from road accidents in Jordan.

Speaking about the outcome of the fund raising campaign, he said that the campaign raised approximately JD 50,000 in cash contributions, a figure which is expected to higher following the receipt of other contributions from companies, institutions, and banks who have been approached by collection teams as part of the campaign.

The cost for the first stage of the centre is expected to cost JD one million, a target which will be achieved through fund-raising campaigns, holding football matches in various parts of the Kingdom and artistic parties, in which Arab and international artists will take part, Dr. Khatib said. This is in addition to money raised through special issues of lottery tickets, he added.

The centre, Dr. Khatib continued, aims to provide comprehensive services to cancer patients in Jordan in terms of diagnosis and treatment in addition to providing material, moral and social support for these patients. The centre will also provide the necessary statistics and records on the types of cancer in Jordan and its geographical and demographic distribution. The centre will later run educational programmes to increase awareness about cancer, he added.

The national task force, Dr. Khatib said, is currently in the process of establishing contacts with a number of Arab countries to explain the need to establish the centre. The team will also explore the possibility of some Arab countries contributing towards the cost of the centre, Dr. Khatib concluded.

'Moves seek world support'

(Continued from page 1) Middle East. The delegation visited Italy, the serving chairman of the EC, and held talks with Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi and Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti on Wednesday before arriving in Paris Thursday.

The four-member delegation, which is headed by Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali, also includes Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and PLO Executive Committee member Jawid Al Ghossein.

Commenting on the delegation's meeting with French External Relations Minister Roland Dumas on Thursday, Mr. Hassan said the joint team explained the Jordanian-Palestinian strategy as outlined in the Feb. 11 agreement and sought French support for an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — U.S., the Soviet Union, France, Britain and China.

In his interview with Radio Monte Carlo, Mr. Hassan, commenting on the Jordan-PLO move to convince Western countries of the necessity to convene an international conference, said the concept of such a conference materialised before the signing of the Feb. 11 agreement and "the success of this political goal has no relation whatsoever with maintaining or cancelling the (Jordan-PLO) accord."

He said all Arab countries, with the exception of Syria and Libya, have supported the joint Jordan-PLO strategy. The results of joint moves for support for the proposed conference will be submitted to the Arabs "through an Arab summit or through direct contacts with the Arab countries," he said.

"Jordan and the PLO remain committed to the accord and therefore the agreement will achieve its political objectives," he said. "This agreement," he said, "cannot lead to a separate deal or surrender of Arab rights."

Mr. Hassan, who played a key role in drafting the agreement,

said "it challenges all Western European reservations over the Palestinian question and the stand of the PLO."

In reply to a question on the apparent failure so far to win a total Arab support or American support for the accord Mr. Hassan said that the accord had achieved more "significant goals."

"The accord had other political goals regarding the preservation of the PLO and its legitimate framework and to maintain the vitality and the movement of the Palestinian question," he said.

He explained that in order to maintain the "vitality of the Palestinian question, the PLO has to be present close to the Israeli occupied territories and this requires the establishment of special and excellent relations with Jordan which should guarantee joint political positions and which should respond to the daily needs of the Palestinian people."

The joint delegation was to meet French Prime Minister Laurent Fabius later Friday.

Speaking to reporters after meeting Mr. Dumas on Thursday, Mr. Majali said France had voiced support for the Feb. 11 agreement and Paris considers the accord as a just basis for further progress in the quest for Middle East peace.

During what he termed frank and detailed discussions with Mr. Dumas, he said "we found really good support. They believe that this Jordanian-Palestinian accord is a very good step towards peace."

In Rome, on Wednesday, Mr. Craxi reaffirmed Italy's support for joint Jordanian-Palestinian moves towards a negotiated peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Craxi told the joint delegation that Italy, as current president of the European Community, would do everything possible to win wide international support for a negotiated peace in the region.

A statement from Mr. Craxi's office said he reminded the delegation that Italy had won support for the idea from its partners in the 10-nation bloc.



Minister of Transport Farhi Obeid (second right) presents Egyptian Ambassador to Jordan Ihab Wabbeh (third right) with the Independence Medal of the First Order in recognition of the envoy's contribution towards inaugurating the maritime link between Jordan and Egypt (Petra photo)

Hussein, Mubarak honour officials for contributions to Aqaba-Nuweibe' sealink

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has conferred on Egyptian Ambassador to Jordan Ihab Wabbeh Jordan's Independence Medal of the First Order in recognition of his efforts and his active contribution towards launching the land-sea route linking Aqaba with the Egyptian port of Nuweibe' (Qaboo).

The medal was presented to the ambassador by Transport Minister Farhi Obeid. At the presentation ceremony, the ambassador voiced his deep appreciation for the honour and paid tribute to the leadership of Egypt and Jordan.

The new route, which was opened under directives from King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak following the resumption of diplomatic ties between the two countries, has been a noticeable success in a very short time, the ambassador said. He said the route has contributed towards promoting travel and the shipment of goods between the two countries.

The ambassador later hosted a ceremony at his residence during which he announced the presentation of distinguished Egyptian medals to Mr. Obeid and other officials from both countries, conferred on them by President Mubarak.

The ambassador presented the Al Istiqlal Medal of the First Order to Mr. Obeid and Egyptian

Ministry of Transport Under Secretary Nazem Arafeh, the Al Jumhuriya Medal Second Order to Mr. Adel Al Qudah, director general of the Jordanian customs, Mr. Mardi Qattaneen, director of the Jordanian Ports Corporation, Mr. Yasser Al Tal, director of the National Jordanian Maritime Line, and Mr. Tawfiq Kassar, representative of the shipping agents, in recognition of their efforts to make the route a success.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Obeid voiced appreciation for the medals and said Jordan looks towards further inter-Arab trade and cultural relations through this route which he said forms one more step towards bringing progress and prosperity to the Arab nation.

The ferry boat service carried 23,500 passengers during June and ferried 3,000 vehicles between the two ports, according to Mr. Obeid.

Lower fares, charges

In an interview with the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Mr. Obeid said in order to further encourage merchants to use the route, a decision has been taken to reduce the charges on shipping goods on the two ferries "Al Hussein" and "Mabrouka" by 55 per cent as of the beginning of July 1985. The decision has been taken by a follow up committee co-chaired by the transport ministers of Jordan and Egypt and is designed to attract

travellers and tourists and to also encourage the passage of goods between the Arab east and the western parts of the Arab World through Jordan and Egypt, the minister said.

He said the committee has also decided to reduce by 50 per cent the fare for passengers during weekends and he recommended that Arabs travelling along the route be allowed to change \$150 or its equivalent into Egyptian currency at tourist exchange rates of 125 Egyptian piasters for one U.S. dollar, instead of only 84 piasters.

Furthermore, foreign diplomats accredited to Jordan can now travel both ways on the route through normal channels provided embassies guarantee the return of the vehicles used for the journey, Mr. Obeid added.

The minister said that in order to encourage trade exchange between the two sides, the committee has decided to make a feasibility study to set up trade centres at the two ports within the free zone areas and to set up areas displaying products from both Egypt and Jordan.

Travellers along the route can enjoy all the conveniences and services at both terminals, the minister said. He said that the transport ministry will next week publish the new rates for travel and shipment of goods along this route.

Closure of Ruseifa mine due to market slump, Azar says

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) Director General Wasef Azar Friday refuted rumours that the Ruseifa mine production line was to cease functioning for the coming four years due to poor quality phosphates found at the site. Mr. Azar explained that a two-month close down of the mine is due to variable changes in international markets, supply and demand fluctuations as well as phosphate storage capacity.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Azar said that the company occasionally deems it necessary to suspend operations at one of its sites in certain cases which would benefit the JPMC.

Mr. Azar emphasised that Ruseifa's close down, which he said was temporary, did not result in sacking any of the mine's labourers but that workers at the mine have been transferred to other JPMC mines.

The Ruseifa mines, where phosphates were first exploited in 1953, were reported to have ceased operations two months ago. No explanation had been given for

the shutdown until Mr. Azar gave a statement to the Jordan Times. In response to a question on how long the close down would continue, Mr. Azar said that the re-opening depends mainly on the market situation. He suggested that it would not take long before the mines start operating again.

New projects

The JPMC has finalised setting up the first phase of a new extraction project in the vicinity of the old mine in Ruseifa. Mr. Azar continued. He added that the next phase of the new system is to be

submitted to a special panel in order to determine the feasibility of the process at Ruseifa. Mr. Azar said that experiments, which are part of the study aiming to yield higher quality phosphates in accordance with the demands of international markets. The study will be evaluated in order to obtain the best way of implementing the extraction process before the end of 1985, he added.

Another phosphate mining project is due to be established at Shidiyeh in the southern region of the Kingdom, Mr. Azar pointed out. He said that when the Shidiyeh mines are functioning by 1986, the JPMC will then be operating in four mining areas. Ruseifa, 15 kilometres northeast of Amman, Al Abiyad, some 115 kilometres south of the capital and El-Hasa, 136 kilometres south of Amman.

Commenting on the production line at the JPMC, Mr. Azar said that the JPMC's production of phosphate in 1984 reached a record of 6.26 million tonnes, compared to production in 1974 which registered 1.6 million tonnes. He also said that Jordan exported 4.69 million tonnes to more than 35 countries all over the world during 1984.

CAEU opens meetings on Arab economic action today

AMMAN (Petra) — The world economic situation and its effect on Arab development as well as the proposed U.S.-Israeli free trade zone will top the agenda of the 43rd session of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU), scheduled to open here today.

CAEU Secretary General Mahdi Obeidi, in a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, expressed his hope that the council will reach new resolutions which would push forward joint Arab economic action and Arab economic integration.

The session, to be held the level of Arab finance and commerce ministers or their deputies, will discuss a report by the CAEU secretary general on the current world economic crisis and its effect on Arab development in order to formulate decisions regarding collective Arab measures which should be taken to face this crisis, Mr. Obeidi added.

JEA announces international tenders to light main roads

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) has announced international tenders for supplying electric lights on main highways and roads in Amman and will refer tenders to the winning bidders before the end of 1985, according to an announcement issued Thursday.

The announcement was made by engineer Robhi Al Hamid, director of a project for lighting Amman roads. He said that the tenders are for lighting the highway linking the Queen Alia International Airport with the Seventh and Eighth Circles in Jabal Amman, the Amman-Zarqa highway from Sports City to the approaches of Zarqa and the University of Jordan road to Sweileh and from Sweileh to the Eighth Circle. These roads have a total length of 80 kilometres, he said.

The project, due to be completed by the end of 1986, entails supplying the required equipment, laying the distribution networks, building the transformer stations and laying the electricity cables, Mr. Hamid said.

Khatib calls for private sector involvement in tourism projects

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Information, Culture, Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Al Khatib Thursday stressed the importance of developing tourism and archaeological sites to promote both domestic and international tourism.

Mr. Khatib, who presided over a meeting of the Tourism Authority's board of directors, also stressed the importance of involving the private sector in projects to revive tourism in view of the important role this sector plays in supporting tourism at the local, regional and international levels. He also called for encouraging this sector to contribute towards increasing the national economy.

Police search for confidence trickster after wholesale swindle, fraud case

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Amman police are hunting for a confidence trickster who used a novel method of swindling a wholesaler by issuing a dud cheque as payment for a well-known brand of beer and selling the beer at cheaper prices than the wholesaler.

The case came to light when the wholesaler, who accepted the JD 576 cheque drawn on a bank in Sahab for payment after 30 days from the date of issue, wanted to ensure the financial credibility of the buyer and sent it to the bank for a routine inquiry. However, he had already delivered 100 cartons of the beer to the swindler.

The manager of the bank informed the wholesaler that the account holder is "one of the most crooked swindlers" and was "wanted in connection with a number of similar cases," said the wholesaler, who preferred to remain anonymous.

"We approached the authorities and obtained an arrest warrant for the con man," who has reportedly been on the run for the last 10 days, he said. The wholesaler also launched inquiries on his own and managed to come up with the name of a wealthy beauty salon owner, who, he was told, was "the kingpin of the racket."

Further inquiries revealed that the con ring was involved in a number of similar swindles, which begin by one of its members approaching businessmen and buying goods in return for post-dated cheques, the wholesaler said. From there, the goods are freely sold in the market at whatever prices they can fetch before the seller sends the cheque to the bank for realisation and finds it being returned unhonoured, according to the wholesaler.

Once the cheque is returned it becomes the "headache" of the seller to locate the swindler, who, by then, would have vanished without trace. Even the banks cannot help much in tracing him, for the simple reason that the addresses given to them are fictitious and the account holder would have made not more than two appearances at the bank — once to open the account and again to collect the cheque book.

Ultimately, the victim of the swindle goes to court and then the legal proceedings begin. In past years, police have caught up with a number of similar con men, but the victims of the game, in most cases, were unable to collect any compensation, as the accused had no liquid or solid assets to their name.

In the latest case, the wholesaler, in the course of his own "investigation," came across a swindler with whom he had a previous experience of a similar nature. "He pleaded innocence in this case, and when I threatened to approach police with his name, he gave me the name of the salon owner as one of those closely involved in the swindle," the wholesaler said.

"Apparently, (the salon owner) was informed by someone that we were very active in following up the lead and the next thing we knew was that he came to us and offered to settle the case," the businessman said. "He issued us a cheque for JD 600 — the extra JD 24 to cover our legal expenses — and has promised that it will not be dishonoured," the wholesaler told the Jordan Times on Thursday. "Even if the cheque is dishonoured, he has undertaken to pay us the money in cash in two or three days."

"This time we have the advantage of knowing that the issuer of the cheque has a beauty salon and owns a house in Amman suburbs," the wholesaler added.

In the meantime, the man who issued the original cheque remains at large after collecting some JD 400 for the beer. "We sold him the beer at JD 5.760 per case, which is the best price we offer to bulk buyers, and he resold it for JD 4,000 a case," according to our inquiries, the wholesaler said. "The beer has a good reputation in the market and is fast-selling and most buyers took advantage of the lower price offered by the swindler," he said.

Berri: Hostage crisis could be resolved in 2 days

(Continued from page 1) was putting pressure on him to resolve the crisis.

Before a news blackout was imposed in Washington, U.S. officials said they were in close touch with Damascus.

Mr. Reagan imposed the news blackout on diplomatic moves to release the hostages and White House spokesman Larry Speakes told reporters Thursday: "I have nothing to say and won't answer any questions. We want them all released and that's it."

In what may be the Reagan administration's most direct public suggestion that Israel free the Lebanese prisoners, Vice President George Bush said Tuesday: "We think that people being held against international law should be released."

At a press conference in Bonn on the second leg of his 10-day European tour, Mr. Bush was asked if the United States would welcome the prompt release of all Lebanese prisoners still in Israel.

Mr. Bush declared that U.S. policy would "certainly welcome" the early release "of people that are illegally held hostage." Continuing his response, Mr. Bush said the administration earlier "expressed our concern about prisoners being held in Israel."

But, Mr. Bush added, "We are not in the position of linkage; we are not in the position of knocking under to the demands of hijackers."

Diplomats said negotiators faced the problem of finding a formula allowing Israel to release the detainees without appearing to have done so under pressure from the hijackers.

The three TWA crew are still aboard their Boeing 727 at the airport guarded by gunmen and the passengers are apparently being held in small groups in Beirut suburbs.

Mr. Palmer told reporters after his release they were in groups of about nine and were moved around several times.

One of the captives told reporters Friday that some of the hostages are being held in a hideout rocked by "gunfire every night" and asked to be moved to a safer location.

The Rev. James W. McLough, 45, complained when he was produced with two other hostages at Mr. Berri's house that there was gunfire, including artillery fire, nightly around the house where they are guarded.

He asked "if anything could be done to move us to an embassy... or somewhere where we could be in a greater degree of safety than we are now."

"We're troubled here," he told reporters. "Gunfire every night and some artillery. We're concerned that, by accident, we can be involved."

He did not elaborate and Mr. Berri's aides gave no indication whether the hostages will be moved.

Meanwhile, an Israeli official said any plan for Syria to take charge of the American hostages in Beirut would establish "Syrian complicity" in the affair.

The official, speaking on condition he was not identified, said the Syrians had already been implicated in the crisis by reports that some of the seven Americans kidnapped in Beirut before the hij-

acking of the TWA plane were being held in Syrian-occupied eastern Lebanon.

"The Syrians know everything that go on here," he added.

The Israeli official who stipulated anonymity denied that Israel had planned a quick release of the Lebanese prisoners. "There is no truth in the news that any release is about to happen," the official said.

But he denied an Israel television report Thursday night that Israel and the United States had agreed that Israeli-held prisoners would not be freed until the American hostages were let go.

Israel's Davar newspaper said Friday that the United States and Israel had agreed in principle that the prisoners would be freed gradually in return for the release of all kidnapped Americans held in Lebanon.

Israel released 31 prisoners on Monday and has maintained that more will be released according to the "security situation" in South Lebanon.

Although Israeli officials said publicly that the release had nothing to do with the American hostage crisis, some said privately that the move was designed as a gesture to break the stalemate in negotiations for the Americans' release.

On Thursday night, in a what was seen as a further softening of Israel's initial hard-line "no-deals" stance, Prime Minister Shimon Peres pledged that his government would do whatever it could to bring about the safe return of the American hostages.

Iraq has denounced as a terrorist act the TWA hijack but urged the United States not to intervene militarily in Lebanon over the hostage crisis.

First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan told a news conference in Cairo on Wednesday: "It is a terrorist act... our position towards international terrorism is well known. All countries should cooperate to stop such acts."

Mr. Ramadan, who was conducting a three-day official visit to Egypt, said the United States should not intervene militarily to rescue the hostages. "Instead, the United States should do something about... Syria which is behind such an act," he added.

He accused Syria, Libya and Iran, Syria's enemy in the Gulf war, of forming an axis to "encourage international terrorism."

Mr. Arafat also told reporters in Amman that he thanked the Iraqi president for his "committed attitude towards the Palestinian cause and Iraq's honourable stance during the aggression against the camps."

Palestinian officials here said that Mr. Arafat's visit to Baghdad was "successful" but did not say if his talks with the Iraqi president had enhanced the chances of convening the extraordinary summit.

Political observers here believe that prospects for convening the summit remain weak despite the fact that most Arab countries have had reportedly welcomed King Hassan's call.

Arafat leaves after talks

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Wazir, who described the report as "inaccurate," told the Jordan Times that "such reports aim at evoking sensitivities between the PLO and Jordan."

In general, PLO officials in Amman tend to avoid discussing matters pertaining to the PLO's presence in Jordan with the press since they consider "it an intervention in Jordan's internal affairs."

PLO officials here did not disclose whether any issue concerning the PLO's presence in Jordan was discussed during Friday's Arafat-Rifai meeting but said that the PLO was keen on maintaining a "high level of understanding with the Jordanian government, particularly on such issues."

Palestinian observers here believe that the results of Mr. Arafat's talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein were also discussed.

Mr. Arafat's talks in Baghdad, according to PLO officials in Amman, focused on efforts to convene an extraordinary Arab summit to discuss the Palestinian question.

Upon his arrival in Amman Thursday Mr. Arafat described his talks with President Hussein as "positive and fruitful." He told

Dentists review amendments to JDA law

By Simonetta Carr
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The General Assembly of the Jordan Dental Association (JDA) has been reviewing its budget and holding discussions on the adjustment of the association's laws and regulations.

The most relevant regulation under discussion, Dr. Walid Maraka, president of the association, told the Jordan Times, is the establishment of a cooperative fund within the association itself which will include dental fees paid by companies and firms in both the private and public sector for the dental health of their employees.

Dr. Maraka said that, while most firms and companies usually meet the treatment bills of their employees, these are usually benefiting only a few dentists. Through the establishment of this fund, the companies will now pay the association instead of the dentist. Seventy percent of the fee will then be given to the treating dentist, 25 percent will be distributed to all participating dentists, and the remaining five percent will be kept in the fund in order to meet the expenses involved in such transactions.

This regulation was approved at a JDA meeting last month by the participating members of the association, but a committee was established to further such discussions and formulate them in order to present them to the Ministry of Health. "If such a regulation passes through all the legal

steps, it will then be applied", Dr. Maraka said.

Another regulation under discussion concerns pension salaries for dentists. The association decided to raise such salaries to JD 120 per month, but the council was also asked to do a financial study with experts in the country to discuss the possibilities to raise it even more.

Dr. Maraka said that another important decision taken by the General Assembly was the institution of an election day for the association which will occur separately from other meetings. He said the Jordan Medical Association already follows such a plan. The JDA will have its first separate election day in 1986, he concluded.



ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Shocking outrageous attack

WE ARE dismayed and greatly shocked at the outrageous attack by the speaker of the Kuwaiti parliament on Jordan, the country which maintains a strong steadfastness in the face of the Israeli enemy and Zionist ambitions in the region. The speaker, Ahmad Sa'doun, should realise that Jordan defends the Arab Nation and continues to do so to stop the Israelis from seizing Arab oil fields in Kuwait and other Arab countries. Kuwait and other Arab countries realise that Jordan and the PLO are taking steps to explain Arab peace bids with the purpose of paving the way for a Middle East settlement.

Arab masses who heard Mr. Sa'doun's speech to parliament on Tuesday felt a great bitterness, and foresaw in the statement a bid to further deepen Arab disarray and stop the restoration of Arab solidarity. The Kuwaiti financial assistance to Jordan is a national commitment in implementation of Arab summit meetings and is designed to enhance this country's steadfastness in the face of Israeli aggression. The message by the speaker of the Lower House of Parliament to Mr. Sa'doun has expressed part of the feelings of dismay and resentment by the Jordanian people towards these allegations and these attacks on Jordan, and its firm national policies.

Al Dustour: Does Britain need reminders?

WE DO not want to believe reports coming from London about the British government's intention to refuse to meet with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation now on a tour of Europe, to explain the joint bids for achieving peace. If the reports are true then we will be greatly surprised because we have always counted on Britain to help pressure the U.S. and Israel into working towards the establishment of a just peace in the region. We appreciate the stands of France and Italy for their backing and support for the Jordan-PLO accord and we regret to hear about the British stand, especially as Britain shoulders a grave responsibility towards the region in view of its numerous interests and because of its responsibility in helping to create the state of Israel during British mandate in the Arab territory. We would like the British government to receive the joint delegation with the purpose of hearing the full details about the Amman agreement and the clear Arab bid to achieve peace under U.N. auspices.

Sawt Al Shaab: Unjustified attack

WE REGRET to hear the speaker of the Kuwaiti parliament making accusations against Jordan at a time when this country pursues all efforts to serve the national causes. Jordan is really shocked to hear a Kuwaiti official accusing the Jordanians and Palestinians of paving the way for direct talks with Israel, at a time when both are working together to explain the Arab rights and the Arab Nation's position, as declared at Arab summits.

We reject all accusations and allegations levelled by Kuwait against Jordan and refuse to allow others to consider their financial assistance to this country as outside the framework of Arab consensus. This assistance has been agreed upon by the Arab leaders and Kuwait's aid is a national commitment to a country defending the Arab oil countries and their wealth.

The help Jordan get from the Arab World is a means for bolstering its steadfastness and that of the Palestinian people under Israeli rule and therefore Jordan can but denounce the Kuwaiti official's statements causing harm to bilateral relations at a time when all efforts should be directed towards holding an Arab summit to discuss Arab problems.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: A notable example

KING HUSSEIN Wednesday instructed the government to dispatch 10,000 blankets to the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, the first Arab leader to respond to calls for helping the victims of the attacks on the camps. The King's response to call by the Red Cross to offer relief supplies to the refugees should have set an example for all Arab states to follow suit. The Red Cross has published a report about the situation in the camps and requested that doctors, medical supplies and food should be sent in order to rescue the lives of many victims. All the warring factions in Lebanon should also contribute to this humanitarian mission by allowing the relief supplies to pass through the camps.

Providing the refugees with humanitarian assistance should not be hindered by diplomatic procedures or lengthy consultations because everyone wants the refugees to benefit from the relief supplies before it is too late to save their lives. All Arab countries should in fact cooperate in order to alleviate the sufferings of the Palestinian people.

Sawt Al Shaab: Libya encourages Arabs' enemies

IRAQ SHOULD not be left alone to face the Iranian aggression nor should Iraq be the only country to announce a severing of relations with Libya in view of its newly declared strategic alliance with Iran. The alliance, announced on Tuesday, represents a total disregard to the Arab League principles and inter-Arab relations and represents a dangerous development in the Arab region.

The Libyan regime has shown total disregard to the Arab Nation by allying itself with the enemies of the Arabs who continue the aggression in the Gulf region. The Libyan regime took this move at a time when Arab governments are busy preparing for an Arab summit to discuss problems that impede Arab solidarity and a settlement to the Palestine problems. The Libyan move coming at this particular time, represents an outrageous action, which, according to the communiqué it signed with Iran, will support the Tehran regime in its war with Iraq.

The Libyans undertook this move as Iran continues to defy bids for peace and calls by international organisations to settle the conflict by peaceful means. The Libyan action is an encouragement to the Iranian aggressors and a bid to prolong the war that has been going on for more than four years.

There can be a way out despite the occupation

By David Adams

DESPITE A military occupation that does its best to squeeze the last breath of enterprise out of its subjects, the Arab Development Society (ADS), near Jericho, is proof that a tenacious will and a bit of money can overcome such adversity.

Brainchild of a distinguished Palestinian, Musa Alami, who died last year, the fortunes of the ADS since its foundation in 1949 have closely mirrored developments in the overall situation in the now occupied territories. Born in 1897, only a year after the first Zionist Congress in Basel, Musa Alami grew up in the Old City of Jerusalem, graduated in law from Cambridge University, rose to government advocate in the pre-1948 Palestine government, and was the sole representative for Palestine at the Alexandria conference of 1944

which led to the setting up of the Arab League. His politics were practical, and his driving ambition after 1948 was to find ways to help his fellow Palestinians stay on their land, particularly those who, after 1948, had flooded into the West Bank refugee camps.

His vision is just as important to Palestinians today. Musa Alami believed that the strongest card in the hands of the Palestinians was the very fact of their continued presence in what was left of Palestine. In 1949, on behalf of the ADS, Mr. Alami submitted a memo to the United Nations outlining ways in which half a million refugees could be settled within the boundaries of the West Bank. In the space of only three years he had, through his own initiative, provided the precedent for future development. With a few faithful friends, he took over a 5,000-acre tract of barren wasteland near Jericho, only three miles west of the

Jordan River, and seven miles north of the Dead Sea.

Proving all the experts wrong, he found water after five months of digging with only the most rudimentary tools, and started to cultivate the land. If ever anyone "made the desert bloom", it was Musa Alami. In a short time the ADS was producing an astonishing variety of fruit, vegetables and fodder crops, a dairy farm and a poultry farm had been started, and a school and vocational training centre for refugee orphans had opened. Standards were exceptionally high; farm produce was sold throughout the Middle East and was renowned for its quality, while boys left the project with academic qualifications that led them to gain places at foreign universities. The area surrounding Jericho soon began to witness the sprouting of other small farms inching their way out

into the arid and salt-encrusted terrain. But all that had been achieved was destroyed overnight during the 1967 war. Occupied by an Israeli battalion and shelled by the Jordanian army, the ADS was left in tatters.

Musa Alami refused to give up. Gradually the ADS was put back on its feet, but those who knew it in the last 17 years of Alami's life could never say it fully recovered. However, only a year after his death, the ADS is now showing signs of a new lease of life. Under the guidance and sponsorship of the Swedish Save the Children Fund and the Norwegian Refugee Council, the clock is being turned back to prove what can be done despite the military occupation. Although it may yet be premature to talk of a complete return to the pre-1967 status of the project, the potential Alami discovered is there again, providing a leading example to others in the West

Bank.

Farm manager Love Almuqit modestly admits that in the year of new management, "we are very pleased with the results so far". Dairy production has been raised by 300 per cent, the poultry farm is expecting a rise in production of 500 per cent and land has been returned to cultivation. Palestinians who are too young to recall the former success of the project greet news of its rejuvenation with excitement. The new-found success of the project may mean renewed problems with the military authorities but the Swedish consul, Mr. Arnold Hjertstrom, who has been closely involved with the recent developments, told the ADS annual general meeting earlier this month, "we have had no problems in the last year and we shall not allow anything to undermine what has been achieved".

The revival of the project comes

at a time when Palestinian farmers in the Jordan Valley have been demonstrating a dramatic increase in production which has attracted large orders from abroad. Meanwhile Israeli colonisation in the Valley is at a low ebb, having levelled out at only 2,450 settlers. However great the enticements, the area has failed to attract new immigrants. Between 1983-4, although the number of settlements grew from 21 to 25, the settler population dropped, and this year, not for the first time, they are having to be bailed out to the tune of \$7.5m by the Jewish Agency.

Although for farmers in the Valley and for the ADS, many of the problems of military occupation do appear insurmountable, recent evidence suggests that in contrast to the situation in the highlands, Palestinians in the Valley are strengthening their roots on the land — Middle East International, London.

Carrington's first year in office gives NATO a new style

By Paul Taylor
Reuter

BRUSSELS — A year ago, the NATO secretary-general's private office was adorned with photographs of warplanes and missiles. Today Victorian masterpieces decorate the walls. In the 12 months since he took over from veteran Dutchman Joseph Luns, former British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington has brought a new style to NATO headquarters.

He has tried to project a different public image of the alliance and even inspired some of the NATO staff to work voluntarily overtime.

Put simply, he has sought to reassert the primacy of the political over the military in the Atlantic alliance and given a new priority to shoring up "West-West" U.S.-European relations.

A week before Lord Carrington

took office last June 25, the U.S. senate narrowly defeated a move by Democratic Senator Sam Nunn that called for the withdrawal of 90,000 troops from Europe unless the European allies did more for conventional defence.

The new NATO leader took up Sen. Nunn's challenge and persuaded allied defence ministers to double joint funding for vital military ground facilities and agree to remedy shortages of key munitions, enabling allied forces to sustain themselves longer in combat.

Acknowledging the improvement, Sen. Nunn had the Senate pass a very different kind of amendment on NATO affairs this year.

Instead of threatening a pullout, it set aside \$200 million in U.S. funds to help finance cooperative arms development projects with NATO allies, a key Carrington objective.

The 66-year-old peer says the launching of a drive for a long-term improvement in NATO's conventional defences has been the high point of his first year in Brussels.

In an anniversary interview with Reuters, he said: "There's no doubt that there was the beginning of a feeling in the United States that Europe wasn't really taking it seriously."

"I think that we have managed in this last year for the time being — I don't know how long it will last — to convince Congress that really we do mean business. But it's only the beginning and we've got to press on and do more."

The other milestone he singled out was the deployment on schedule of U.S. cruise medium-range nuclear missiles in Belgium last March after much wavering.

The first cruise and Pershing-2 missiles arrived in West Germany, Italy and Britain in late 1983 amid

unprecedented mass protests.

Allied cohesion over the missiles had also taught a lesson to Soviet leaders "who really threw the book at U.S. ... and didn't succeed."

Lord Carrington has tried to play a part in calming public anxiety, particularly in Europe, about nuclear weapons.

Whereas Mr. Luns used to dismiss the anti-nuclear movement as Soviet-inspired, his successor has met some of its leaders and debated with them.

In nearly every speech he makes the case for NATO retaining a credible nuclear deterrent, but he also argues that stronger conventional forces would reduce the West's reliance on the early use of nuclear weapons.

Lord Carrington also recognises the limits of his achievements.

Conventional force imp-

movements will cost more money, which is in short supply, and nuclear deterrence can only be sustained if the fractured defence consensus in northern Europe is rebuilt before Socialist governments return to power.

Among his anxieties, Lord Carrington listed Greek-Turkish relations, uncertainty in next year's Spanish referendum on continued NATO membership and the debate over President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

Probably the toughest challenge facing the secretary-general in the next three years will be to keep the alliance relatively united over the "Star Wars" programme.

Not all the allies support the U.S. effort to devise a space-based defence against nuclear missiles, and fewer than half seem likely to participate.

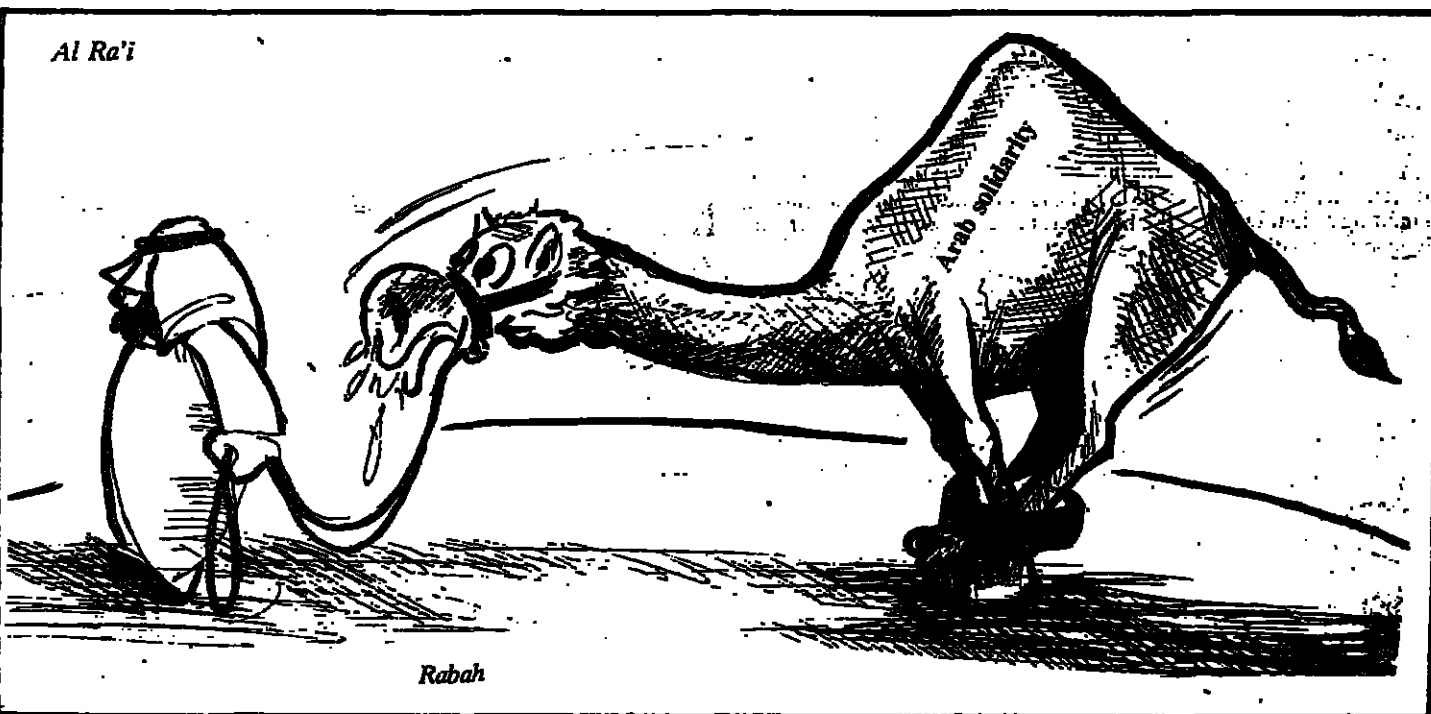
Privately sceptical of the sweeping claims of SDI's proponents,

Lord Carrington has tried to build a consensus in NATO for the proposition that since Moscow is doing research in this field, it is prudent for the United States to do so.

That line may hold for a year or so, but many allied officials are increasingly fearful of the longer-term consequences of "Star Wars" for strategic stability and deterrence in Europe.

Lord Carrington said: "The Europeans have to be careful not to criticise the Americans for wanting to do it and the Americans have to be careful not to criticise the Europeans for having legitimate worries about the consequences of it."

He evaded more detailed questions about SDI with the patrician humour which is his hallmark, joking: "you know science was invented after I left school."



Uruguay: The first 100 days of civil rule

Uruguay claims to have learnt the lessons of Argentina and is moving forward with its feet firmly on the ground. But, says Jimmy Burns, the future of the country's nascent democracy will depend less on good intentions than on international factors.

MONTEVIDEO — As Uruguay's new democratic president, Julio Sanguinetti, marks his first 100 days in power, he can well afford a measure of self satisfaction: the euphoria which greeted the end of 11 years of military rule last March does not appear to have turned into disillusionment.

This small South American country has always boasted of its democratic traditions; the holding of elections last November was widely applauded locally as a restored collective right after an interlude of military government.

Mr. Sanguinetti has managed to sustain this spirit by opting for consensus politics. But he has held back from creating false expectations that the country's burdensome inheritance can be resolved overnight. On both counts he has gained the reputation of proving to be something of a maverick among the presidents of Latin America's southern cone.

"We've learnt the lesson of Argentina. It is best to move with one's feet firmly on the ground," said Mr. Enrique Tanguy, Uruguay's deputy president.

The lesson has been perhaps no better learnt than on the economic front. Mr. Sanguinetti's government has acted with little of the indecision and ad hoc mannerisms which characterised the first months of Mr. Raul Alfonsín's Argentine administration.

The priority status which the president attached to the country's economic problems was underlined in his choice of 46-year-old Ricardo Zerbino as finance minister. An economist with a long-running experience in industry and agriculture, Mr. Zerbino took on the job with a large degree of international and domestic

which can be used to rattle Wall Street.

Nevertheless Mr. Zerbino genuinely believes that moderation, backed by firm economic policies, stands the better chance of ensuring a greater understanding by the IMF and longer repayment schedules. He said Uruguay's leading commercial creditors agreed in December to defer until June 30 some \$120 million in principal payments falling due in the first half of this year. Mr. Zerbino, in the meantime, has kept current with interest payments as they have fallen due despite the constraints this had had on the domestic economy.

The government, however, appears to be aware that its room for manoeuvre domestically could narrow in the coming months unless the IMF shows a measure of flexibility. "We have reached the limit of adjustment with our own resources," said Mr. Zerbino.

After seeing average wage levels fall in real terms by 27 per cent over the last four years, and unemployment reach record levels of more than 15 per cent, the unions are finding it difficult to absorb further austerity. A general strike in April was narrowly averted but there have been stoppages in most sectors of the economy ever since Mr. Sanguinetti took over.

The fact that the unions so far have held back from an outright confrontation with the government springs from an apparent awareness on the part of some union leaders, which is shared by the parliamentary opposition, that they would have the most to lose politically if the present dialogue were to break down. The government has issued veiled warnings that it is quite prepared to hold a referendum on its policies, and seems reasonably confident that it would win based on recent opinion polls.

Ultimately, the future of Ur-

Hawke gambles with bold proposals to change tax system

By Reg Gratton
Reuter

SYDNEY — Prime Minister Bob Hawke has taken the biggest risk of his political career by attempting a radical reform of Australia's outdated tax system.

His gamble at a time when his labour government's popularity is at its lowest since it took office in early 1983 follows a dramatic unshaking of the finance and banking sectors.

This liberalisation, which included the floating of the local dollar and the entry of foreign banks, was almost universally welcomed by business and industry.

But Mr. Hawke quickly found that the proposed destruction of the existing tax order had triggered a heated response from almost everyone at some aspect of the changes.

The package, contained in an official report released this month, includes a controversial 12.5 per cent retail sales tax, a limited capital gains tax and a crackdown on fringe benefits.

The government argues the proposed shift towards indirect taxation means a broader-based, more efficient and fairer system, particularly in beating tax avoidance and evasion.

The changes would be tempered by hefty personal income tax cuts of up to 30 per cent giving the average wage earner nearly 10 U.S. dollars a week more.

The proposals, described by one political analyst as a spectacularly risky course, are to form the basis for a national conference of business, union and government leaders on July 1.

The most radical suggestion — the adoption of a 12.5 per cent consumption tax — has already come under fire from the country's unions, a sector whose support is vital to Mr. Hawke.

The broad-based tax includes food, exempted from general sales taxes in most American states and most European countries.

A telephone poll commissioned by two daily newspapers showed voters overwhelmingly opposed to the tax package with opposition strongest among manual workers and households with low incomes.

The initial cool response has not deterred Mr. Hawke or his Treasurer Paul Keating, the man behind the plan and who spearheaded the deregulation of the banking and finance systems.

The media in general marvelled that Mr. Hawke was willing to take such a leap into the economic and political unknown.

"The reason there is such an outcry is that Australian governments are not supposed to

behave like this and actually present hard options to an electorate fed on political fairy floss for so long," a commentator wrote in the Australian.

Mr. Hawke, returned to office with a reduced majority last December, was committed to do something about tax reform by pledging a so-called tax summit during the polls campaign.

A similar economic conference held soon after he took office was instrumental in forging a prices and income accord among government, industry and the unions which has been crucial to the country's economic recovery.

But a number of political advisers warned him that the risks involved in any tax reform were too high and would lose him the next election scheduled for late 1987, political sources say.

Mr. Hawke has not heeded the advice and has instead joined Mr. Keating in a campaign to win over public opinion to sell the tax package in the run-up to the July 1 national conference.

He admitted in a television interview there were substantial risks for the government and stressed that a prerequisite for the tax reform was widespread community acceptance.

Few voices have been raised over the legitimacy of Mr. Hawke's full-frontal attack on the existing tax order which was seen as unfair and complex and in need of an overhaul.

He hopes his ability as a communicator and superearner will help overcome loud objections against specific proposals like the 12.5 per cent consumption tax, political sources say.

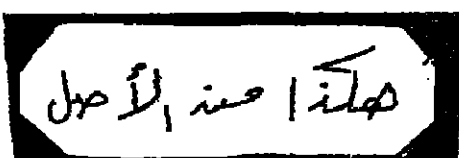
Mr. Hawke, a master at achieving consensus and cooperation, has support from the opposition Liberal Party for a retail sales tax, a change they had already proposed themselves.

But opposition leader Andrew Peacock rejected the proposal for a capital gains tax and said the Liberal-National Party coalition which he heads would not accept the package as a whole.

Mr. Hawke and Mr. Keating, convinced they can win over the unions through income tax cuts and provisions to compensate the poor, will face perhaps the toughest fight of all in getting the necessary legislation passed.

The tax package could be blocked in the senate (upper house) where the small Australian Democrats Party and independents control the balance of power.

How they will vote is only likely to emerge after the tax conference when the community view on the merits of the tax changes is better known.



Time to take clear moral stands



Talking straight
Marwan Muasher

WE HAVE been confronted in the recent few days with the hijacking of an Alia and a TWA plane. The hijacking of the first resulted in the freeing of all passengers and the blowing up of the plane, and the second one has, up to the time of writing this article, not ended yet.

There are reasons to believe that both hijackings were carried out by people belonging to the same group. And yet, the similarity between the two events almost stops there.

The hijacking of the Alia plane was condemned, and rightly so, in the strongest terms both by the Jordanian government and the public at large. In addition to threatening the lives of innocent civilians, it has also cost the airline, and Jordan itself, an expensive plane bought in hard currency. It also ill-rewarded Jordan's efforts at trying to keep open a link with Lebanon. If one takes this incidence

separately, it is most easy to understand why everybody condemned it so. There is no controversy here, but, take, if you will, the TWA hijacking. The reaction to this incident has been totally different. It is fair to say that beyond some vague generalities there was hardly any clear condemnation of the act. All those who did were very careful to qualify their statements and link the hijacking to the Arab-Israeli conflict in general.

Even though the hijacking was carried out by the same group we only condemned last week, it is interesting to note the differences between the Alia and the TWA incidents. Are we hesitant to condemn the latter act because it was directed against an American plane? Against Americans? Or non-Arabs? Are we reluctant to speak against it because the demands of the hijackers this time include the release of Arabs from Israeli jails? Does

that make a difference on our judgements?

The question we have to answer, I believe, is whether we stand in principle against the hijacking of any plane, against the threatening of any lives, or whether we wait and see if the results are to our advantage before we pass judgement. Because if we do, and despite all accusations of the naivete of this argument, I believe we have serious flaws in our concept of morality.

I once asked the question whether it is proper or fair to judge the oppressed by the same moral criterion as the oppressor. It is true that in several instances, desperate people are pushed to commit desperate acts. It is understood that one cannot expect someone who has been robbed of the very meaning of morality to practise it. But all that is besides the point. Understanding why an act is done does not justify condoning it. All acts

have reasons behind them. The implicit adoption of the end-justifies-the-means approach to problems in our minds can only compound the problems we already face in this part of the world.

We stand shaky on so many things. One of the most fundamental is that of our moral values. We still find justifications any time it is convenient for almost any act, good or bad. We have been often known to condemn the same act or person we used to praise some time ago, and vice versa.

I believe it is time to stand firm and decide on a set of moral values to go by. This is not an idealistic outburst of emotion, but a necessary step, I believe, in defining our goals and gaining the respect, and yes, sometimes the fear, of others.

One of the strongest arguments we have used in our quest to solve the Palestinian

problem is that of morality. It is of the utmost importance to demonstrate to the world in action those moral values we have preached for so long.

The Arabs have used the moral argument against the world, particularly the United States, so many times. We have argued that the U.S. has traditionally been a hypocrite at best in its application of the moral values it preaches to other countries of the world. The treatment of the Palestinians in particular versus that of the Israelis by the U.S. is a shining example of deliberate hypocrisy. The United States, and particularly President Reagan, have been short-sighted to say the least in condemning only actions taken against Americans. This policy has had disastrous results on all parties in the Middle East, U.S. interests included. Indeed, the U.S. would be most foolish if it is to try a rescue operation. But if the U.S. is pursuing such su-

pid policies, is it not fair to stop and have a look whether we are doing the same or not? Are we not also condemning acts against our own institutions and people, but turning the other way when they are committed against others?

If we are willing to take such positions, and claim the Americans, or anybody for that matter, brought it upon themselves, then all the better. But then we cannot point fingers at others and accuse them of practising immorality when in a sense we are doing it too.

It should make no difference what the demands of the hijackers are. Cold as it might seem, we should not allow ourselves to condone such actions even if the demands include the release of Arabs from Israeli jails. If the hostages were prisoners of war, or even Israeli civilians, there might be room for justification. But one has to draw the line somewhere on

the manipulation of innocent lives for achieving one's aims, however noble or malicious they might be.

Yes, even in the cruel world of reality, where we have been often wronged by Israelis, by Americans, by Arabs, we still have to be clear on our moral values. The fact is that in any conflict, innocent lives will suffer. Perhaps we have had more than our share in this regard. But this should make us all more determined to stand against any endangerment of any lives, particularly when suffering is caused by Arabs.

Until then, this endless circle of "you-did-it-to-me-first" will only succeed in dragging us into more immoral acts to the point where it no longer matters who is right and who is wrong. Perhaps Lebanon provides a living testimony to that fact. I hate to think of the kind of society we would have then.

Interesting newcomers on Channel 6

By J.H. Boteler

APART FROM some old favourites whom we welcome back this week, there are some acclaimed and interesting new comedies as well as in the new Channel 6 programme cycle. But since the official unveiling of that is not until Monday, we had better first dispense with the old. Tonight (Saturday) will, in fact, look exactly the same throughout the coming months, since "Vietnam" (8.30) is only at the half-way mark. Tonight is the 13th instalment, and, hopefully, the emergence of the last of "the missing episodes". Let us hope that the CBS tape-labelling gremlin has breathed his last and that from next week on I can talk with some certainty of each week's episode. The Saturday night format of "Varieties" at 9.10 and a feature film at 10.15 is presumably something of an institution, (and admittedly it is in most of the rest of the world), and therefore remains. Tonight's film is called "Someone is Watching Me" and is all about a top American TV news director (female) who is pursued and eventually terrorised by a mystery telephone caller. A made-for-TV movie from 1978 it presumably gave Barbara Walters a couple of sleepless nights.

Tomorrow (Sunday) sees — the last episode of "Allo Allo" at 8.30. In order to smuggle the forgery of the painting into German headquarters so that they can keep the priceless original, Colonel von Strohm and Captain Geering throw a party. This will enable Rene to break into the Gestapo headquarters with the copy, while Otto Flick, the Gestapo chief, enjoys himself at Rene's cafe. David Croft, producer/director of this series, says his intention was to poke fun at series such as "Colditz" and "The Secret Army", and not at the French Resistance or the realities of the last war. For my money he did not succeed. This lamentable attempt at comedy made the French out to be either sex-mad or stupid, the Germans gross and stupid, and the English merely stupid. Since it was an English production this last was perhaps justified. However, at 9.10 tomorrow night there is a memorable programme: "The Film of the Book", or in other words the graphic animation of this column. Actually, it's nothing of the sort really, but JTV's own exposition of the new cycle. Worth watching for the music score and the truly inventive graphics alone. And at 10.15 there is another episode of "Flander of Lost Loves". But not just any old episode. Oh, no. This is a super-duper extended one, probably in celebration of Cary and Daisy getting elevated to a more "prime" spot elsewhere in the week (But more of that in its place). Perhaps this time they will take on a half-dozen fraught emotional scenarios each.

And so to Monday, and the real meat of the matter. At 8.30 there is a new comedy series, "Who's the Boss?". Its exploration of the trials and tribulations enc-

ountered by a single father who has to do all his own house-keeping sounds like a male version of "Kate and Allie", (which, incidentally, remains its 8.30 slot on Tuesday). Presumably his children are all bright and charming and deserving candidates for the garbage disposal system too. At 9.10 there is a new drama series "Charlie Endell, Esquire". Iain Cuthbertson plays Charlie Endell, banished from his old patch of London after serving seven years in the slammer. He returns home to Glasgow, determined to muscle in on the action there. However, his great Glasgow take-over bid does not go according to plan, and he finds himself most unwelcome with both the police and the underworld. This is an action-thriller laced with humour, and it got me thinking, I don't know if JTV ever showed it, but about seven years ago there was in England a TV series called "Budge". This starred Adam Faith, (the same), as a fairly inefficient small-time Cockney crooked lawyer who is pursued and eventually terrorised by a mystery telephone caller. A made-for-TV movie from 1978 it presumably gave Barbara Walters a couple of sleepless nights.

A treat, by all accounts that I have heard, is definitely what is in store for us at 10.15 on Mondays, also for six weeks. "Widows" received instant rare reviews when it was first shown in England last year. It marks a new departure in television action drama. In making four independent-minded, highly resourceful women the main characters, it gives a very original twist to a well-established genre. A strong plot, with well-written and well-researched scripts, maintains the interest and tension to the very end. A security van hold-up goes disastrously wrong, and three men, members of the gang, are killed. Their widows find that it is time to stop, take stock, and start life afresh. In trying to do so, Dolly Rawlins, widow of gang-leader Harry, discovers her husband's bank deposit box. It contains a gun, banknotes and ledgers, detailing the plan for the robbery which went wrong. For the three women, — Dolly, Linda Perelli, and Shirley Miller — the plan represents a fascinating possibility. Suppose they are to carry out the robbery themselves? To finish the job which their husbands started? To see it through to its logical conclusion? Novices in the art of crime, they put preparations in hand. They buy fast cars, acquire vans to use in the robbery, and train daily rehearsing every last movement of the raid to perfection. Dolly appoints herself as the leader of the gang. Strong-minded, she is determined to see the job through, even if it means driving herself and the others to the limit. And all her strength of mind is needed as both

the police and a rival gang watch their every move. This story of women learning to survive in what, until now, has been a male preserve should hold a very special appeal.

Tuesday has, apart from "Kate and Allie" at 8.30, a very quick return indeed for Adam Dalgleish, scourge of misguided murderers. "Cover Her Face" is the third of P.D. James's mystery novels to have been adapted to the small screen, and also the most recent, being screened in England only a couple of months ago. A bonus for myself is that I have neither seen it or read it (the opposite of the case with "Shroud for a Nightingale"). This does mean that I am unable to give little hints throughout the coming weeks (Such as warning you about the difference of 15 years in the ostensible setting of "Shroud". Set as it was in 1970, matron was a plausible Nazi trainee, looking a respectable forty-five or so. She could not pass for sixty, which setting the story in 1985 required. (And set it when the producers did, else why was Mrs. Dettinger, comparing Adam Dalgleish to his Liverpool footballing namesake?). But enough of that. All I know about this new five-part series is that it opens with a secretary coming into her office one morning and discovering a strange corpse on the floor (Strange in that she does not know the identity of the deceased, not strange as in opposed to a familiar corpse). Between us we will try to figure out who done what to whom. The mid-week feature film continues at 10.15 on Tuesdays, and this week it is a western, hopefully with piles of black hats slugging it out with white hats, and the seventh cavalry having a set-to with the Indians.

Wednesday at 8.30 is the occasion for all-round rejoicing, since it marks the return of that old favourite "Three's Company". Jack and the girls. Presumably girls here includes dear old scatter-brained Chrissie. Since her only appearances in the last series were of her from the waist up answering a telephone, I suspect that the actress in question has had a welcome addition to her family — hope it did not inherit Chrissie's brains though! — and that Mum is now fit and raring to go. Come Wednesday, though, and I'll probably be proved totally wrong. Such is fate.

And fate is what will be very much in evidence over the next nine weeks at 9.10 on Wednesday, since it was one of the favourite subjects of the immortal bard himself, William Shakespeare. "Playing Shakespeare" is a series of studies of many aspects of the great man's works. While it would appear a pity that most of it will occur in the format of "studio workshops", thus suggesting a lack of full-blown production material, a superb collection of stars from The Royal Shakespeare Company, including Ian McKellen, Judi Dench, Dame Peggy Ashcroft, Donald Sinden, Ben Kingsley (Gandhi) and Patrick Stewart should help ensure that this series will prove at least of

riveting as other recent Channel 6 forays into the world of arts. What would be a real bonus is if JTV decided to favour us with some of the plays themselves in the not-too-distant future, especially as the BBC has finally completed its mammoth project of filming all of the plays. Since we are liable to be walking around speaking in iambic pentameters in the next few months, we may as well go the whole hog. At 10.15 on Wednesday there is another new cops-and-robbers series from crime-ridden California. "Jesse" stars Lindsay Wagner, (she of "The Bionic Woman" fame) and that is about all the information that I am able to glean about it at this point. She's some sort of private individual who helps out the local constabulary, (though I very much doubt that she'll manage even a semblance of the style and finesse of Miss Marple, but I'm just letting my prejudice towards Aunt Jane show). But in exactly what sort of capacity she helps I am none too certain. Is it as a psychiatrist, or as a psychic? I hope the latter. The prospect of relaxing before a procession of crystal balls, strange howling sounds and luminous visitations is rather appealing. But I suppose we will find out soon enough.

Thursday introduces another new comedy series at 8.30, this time an English one called "No Place Like Home". Like so many comedy series these days it's concerned with the troubles of family life, this time a variation on the theme of the grown-up children who appear to all leave home but in reality do not. The thing that makes me slightly nervous about this latest enterprise is the names of the characters. The central family are the Crabtrees. There's mum and dad, Arthur (Arf) and Beryl. Then there are three children Paul, Nigel (Nige) Tracy (Trace) and Lorraine. Their next-door neighbours are Trevor (Trev) and Vera Botting. (I kid you not). Finally there is Lorraine's husband Raymond (Ray). Now before any outraged Vera's or Nigels amongst my readers leap for the typewriter foaming at the mouth, let me explain that I have nothing against any of these names taken by themselves. My elder brother is called Trevor (yes, and Trev!). It's just that when they are all lumped together you can bet your bottom dollar that you are in the presence of a particularly ghastly substrata of English suburbia. Not of course that this is any reason to suspect that the programme will be bad; merely an indication that the various characters will be!! The story line is about people leaving home, returning home, getting divorced and generally collectively getting on each other's nerves. Which is rather a pity, since if they could just hang around for half-an-hour they could all be living happily ever after in no time at all, because at 9.10 it is time once again for "Flander of Lost Loves". But only in the standard one-hour episode format though. This week a woman asks Cary to find her missing twin sister, and a corporate attorney seeks to renew the romance she had 10



Nine Nerds A-nesting. There is no place like home; Thurs. 8.30

years ago when she and this idealistic young man were in the peace corps together (and love, Man peace and love). At 10.15 on Thursday there is a new series of ninety-minute horror stories designed to relax us for the weekend. "Fox's Mystery Theatre", is a co-production between 20th Century Fox and Hammer Horror films, and promises to be a gory and extended version of "Tales of the Unexpected". Yumme.

Friday continues with the hysterical and at times almost surreal vision of domestic discord in "Sorry" at 8.30, while at 9.10 mass hysteria and cheering will be heard throughout the land with the return of "Remington Steele" (and Mildred too, I hope). These delightful love-birds are too well-known for anything more to

be said about them. The 10.15 slot was going to be filled by some awful Dallas-type offering called "Berenger's", but I am reliably informed that by the time all the revolting and disgusting bits had been removed, there was nothing left. Thankfully we have been spared that, and since a decision for a replacement has yet to be made let us employ a sporting term and pencil in A.N. OTHER at that particular time. So all that leaves is the new-look Sunday line-up to tell you about. Or shall I wait for next week? Now, there's no point. Ok, so first the good news: at 9.10 there's the return of "Tenko". HOORAY! And how the bad news: at 10.15 there's "Love B-oat". Egads, forsooth, I am overcome with paralysis, and can write no more!!!!

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McEnroe, Connors reach 3rd round Wimbledon Tennis Championships 330 race 10,000 metres to help benefit disabled

LONDON (R) — Defending champion John McEnroe, playing superbly when required, won two tie-breaks in decisive fashion to beat Nduka Odizor of Nigeria 7-6, 6-1, 7-6 in the second round of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships Friday.

The top-seeded American's victory put him into the third round along with third-seeded compatriot Jimmy Connors, who had an easy time in a 6-3, 6-2, 6-1 triumph over Kelly Evernden of New Zealand.

Connors was untroubled by a qualifier who seemed unnerved playing on the famed centre court for the third time, but another seed, number nine Johan Kriek of the United States, was tested more thoroughly on an outside court.

He finally defeated Australian Davis Cup player John Fitzgerald 3-6, 7-6, 7-5, 6-1 to stay on course for a projected fourth round match against McEnroe.

American 16th seed Tim May-

otte, a semifinalist in 1982 and a quarter-finalist twice, beat compatriot Ken Flach, better known as a doubles player, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 while unseeded West German Boris Becker, who could meet Mayotte in the last 16, crushed American Matt Anger 6-0, 6-1, 6-3.

McEnroe, 26, played the tie-breaks brilliantly and won both 7-1 against Odizor, but otherwise he struggled to find his control in the court one match. He frequently seemed distracted by noise from spectators in the corridors and shouted out his annoyance on two occasions.

"I started slowly and finished slowly, but I played well in the

tie-breaks," McEnroe said. "But I'm not playing as well this year as I was at the same stage last year and I don't think I can win the tournament if I play like that all the way through. I feel like I kind of just got by, that I did just enough to win."

He had a match point on Odizor's serve at 6-5 in the final set and disputed a call with the umpire when the Nigerian's first serve was ruled to be good.

But, as happens so often after his disputes, he controlled his fury superbly and opened a 5-0 lead in the tie-break before wrapping up the match.

In the women's singles, 15th-seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina became the first player in either event to reach the third round when she subdued Camille Benjamin of the United States 6-3, 6-4.

Two other seeds won their first round matches. West German

Claudia Kohde-Kilsch, seeded seventh, beat experienced American Betsy Nagelsen 7-5, 6-1 and ninth-seeded Bonnie Gadusek of the United States brushed off compatriot Heather Ludloff 6-1, 6-1.

Connors, 32, a winner of the Wimbledon title twice — in 1974 and 1982 — required just 90 minutes to win his match Friday. Evernden came through last week's qualifying tournament and beat Jaro Navratil of Czechoslovakia here in the first round.

Connors encountered no problems. He secured the only break he needed in the opening set in the eighth game. Evernden, meanwhile, could not deal at all with Connors' serve — and the American was not even serving well.

Even Connors' second delivery posed insurmountable problems and the New Zealander did not win a single point against serve in five games in the opening set.

Connors broke Evernden in the third and fifth games of the second set and by the third his opposition had evaporated completely.

Sabatini, the 15-year-old Argentine, is far from a master of the grass court game, but she still had an easier time Friday than in her opening round match, a three-set victory over Britain's Amanda Brown.

Against Benjamin, she broke serve in the second game of the first set and retained the advantage. In the second set, there were four breaks of service to 3-3, then Sabatini produced the critical break in the seventh game for a 4-3 lead.

Benjamin had two points to break back to 4-4, but could not convert them and Sabatini soon had the match in the bag to set up a third-round battle against either French girl Cathy Tanvier or American Melissa Gurney.

Fifth-seeded Pam Shriver finally came through a two-day struggle against fellow-American Anne White 6-3, 6-7, 6-3 after wasting a match point in the second set tie-break Thursday night.

White, a 23-year-old blonde who wore a white body stocking Thursday night, was forbidden to do so by tournament officials in the final set Friday.

After his match, Connors said he would have liked to hit a few more balls. Connors said: "He played well at times, badly at times. But I got through and that's good enough."

Asked about his motivation, Connors said it was "no different from any other year. I approach the French, Wimbledon and the (U.S.) Open the same way and I play every match like it's a final, just going out and doing what I've got to do to win, and that was helped me over the years."

By Rana Sabbagh

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In a carnival-like atmosphere, 330 old and young, male and female were scattered at the Amman Marriott Hotel's parking lot Friday afternoon, awaiting the starting signal of the 10,000-metre Classic Road Race, an annual event jointly organised by the hotel and the Jordan Military Sports Council (JMSC).

At 4:16 p.m., the hotel's general manager Haile Agular signalled the starting of the race and the participants dashed through the streets of Amman, starting from the hotel, through Jabal Hussein to downtown Amman, via the first, second and the third circles, through the Holiday Inn Hotel road, preceding to King Hussein street in Shmeisani and back to the hotel. The first to arrive was Mr. Basel Keilani, who made it in 31 minutes and 20 seconds.

Proceeds of the race will benefit the Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped as the hotel will donate JD 1 per participant.

Many participants complained that the event was badly organised and some participants tried to evade the route which was brought to the notice of the authorities, but they did not take any action. The Jordan Times asked a member of the JMSC, who was in charge of the technical and administrative section of the road race who ruled out any possibility of violation. He said "It is impossible to cheat since 30 military referees and five road control cars were following the racers."

The hotel's manager who followed the racers in a car said "I caught a bunch of cheaters". However, cheaters will not discourage the management to continue organising such yearly events. "I think we have offered the community a lot of fun and we managed to raise funds for a good cause."

A participant on Friday's race, Addie Najjar said, "some of the participants mounted cars throughout the first, second and third circles and were dropped near the British Embassy to continue down the Holiday Inn road." He said, "I found it very embarrassing to cheat since we are here to have fun

and not to cheat."

Asked whether he will participate in next year's race he said, "probably yes, I will participate for the sake of fun."

Some participants criticised the road-race saying "there was no organisation and Maher Habbo, a racer said, "the race was supposed to start at 4:00 p.m., but since Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Iba Zaid who was supposed to inaugurate the race could not come in time due to some personal problems and we had to start at 4:17 p.m."

General Talal, a member of the JMSC said, "I think the organisation was very good. The only inconvenience was the lack of space in the hotel's parking lot."

Other organising officials who spoke on condition not to be identified said, "some racers, who won, ran around the corner whereas some were picked up in cars and were dropped down a few metres away from the hotel" and they added "it was totally unfair."

The racers who ran all together were divided into four age groups, and age classes — below 15 years of age, between 16 and 30, from 31 to 45 and above 46.

The first female and male winners of each group were awarded with a trophy. The second and third winner in each group were awarded with a silver and bronze medal, respectively.

Female winners under 15 were: Maha Harzallah, Samar Al Faouri and Hidayat Talleh. Female winners whose age group was between 16 and 30 were: Amneh Audeh, Shaim Inadi and Youmni Fred.

None of the female participant of the 31 to 45 years of age and above 46 years of age showed up. Male winners below 15 years of age were: Ibrahim Abdul Rahman, Ibrahim Sa'ad and Mohammad Hashem.

Male winners of the 16-30 age group were: Basel Keilani, Moutab Fakhoury and Sa'id Mohamad.

Male winners of the 31 to 45 years age group were: Mohammad Hashem, Oukleh Al Masri and P.P. Jackson.

Jack Becky and Peter Avonove were the only two male participants in the above 46 years of age and they managed to win silver and bronze medals, respectively.

English bowlers give hard time to Australia

LONDON (R) — A typically aggressive unbeaten half-century by Australian captain Allan Border failed to prevent England from taking a firm grip on the second test at Lord's Friday.

Border took the attack to the England bowlers after opener Graeme Wood and Andrew Hilditch had been dismissed with only 24 on the board in the ninth over.

He reached his 50 off 71 balls but by tea Australia, replying to England's first innings score of 290, had slumped to 101 for four. Ian Botham collected the two wickets which put England in control.

First, he broke a half century stand between Border and Wessels for the third wicket by trapping Wessels leg before for 11 made in 92 minutes.

David Boon was Botham's next victim immediately before tea. He took evasive action to a delivery which lifted sharply but succeeded only in giving a catch to wicketkeeper Paul Downton.

Earlier, the new ball pairing of Paul Allott and Neil Foster had each taken a wicket to give England just the start they needed.

Just before lunch, Allott had

Graeme Wood caught off a rash hook for eight and Foster uprooted the off stump of Hilditch, scorer of 119 and 80 in the first test, for 14 soon after a fourth brief hold-up for bad light.

At tea Australia's hopes of challenging England's total rested squarely on the capable shoulders of Border, who was 58 not out.

Craig McDermott, Australia's young fast bowler, mopped up England's last two wickets to finish with an impressive haul of six for 70 in the second cricket test at Lord's Friday.

England, 273 for eight overnight, were all out for 290 midway through the second morning session which was held up three times by bad light.

Lunch was taken after the third stoppage with Australia 16 for one. Graeme Wood having failed to an imprudent leg-side stroke off Paul Allott for eight when the score was 11.

After a 10-minute delay at the start, England's overnight pair Phil Edmonds and Neil Foster added 10 runs before Foster was well caught by Kepler Wessels in the gully as he drove with his bat a long way from his body.

South Korean retains title

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's Kim Ji-Won survived a knockdown in the third round to retain his International Boxing Federation junior-featherweight title by knocking out Bobby Berna of the Philippines in the fourth round Friday.

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RJ 8518

Handwritten signature: *Jo Li me 1/10*

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.2940/50	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3629/34	Canadian dollars
	3.0552/62	West German marks
	3.4430/50	Dutch guilders
	2.5590/5610	Swiss francs
	61.52/57	Belgian francs
	9.3075/3150	French francs
	1947.5/9.5	Italian lire
	249.22/32	Japanese yen
	8.7975/8075	Swedish crowns
	8.8050/8150	Norwegian crowns
	10.9575/9675	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	316.00/316.50	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices closed generally easier on lack of support after a firm opening. However, cheap buying in late trading helped lift some prices off midsession lows, dealers said. At 1430 GMT the FTSE 100 was down 3.7 at 1230.6.

Among leaders ICI was 5p higher at 742 after 744, Thorn EMI fell 2p to 357 after 364, Hawker was 2p down at 399 after 407 and Beecham was unchanged at 318 after 321. Gold shares eased.

Government bonds rallied from early ½ point easier levels to show falls of around 1/16 point in the longer end after the slightly lower than expected rise in May. U.S. leading indicators helped sterling rise against the dollar. U.S. shares were firm.

Oil shares were mostly easier with B.P. a penny off at 520 after a low of 515, Britoil unchanged at 208 after 210 while Great Western Resources shed 25p to 190 after a low of 160 in reaction to adverse press comment. Stores were mostly easier.

Banks were quietly mixed with Bank of Scotland 5p higher at 364, Barclays 2p lower at 372 while Lloyds was unchanged at 574 after 577. Insurances were mostly easier with Legal and General 12p off at 677 but Abbey Life was unchanged on balance at 226 after 229. Sedgwick lost 22p at 351 after adverse press comment.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day for much activity where all pursuits are concerned so make a point to get busy early and utilize the daytime to improve surroundings. Come to an understanding with co-workers.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Get some unexpected work finished in the morning. And you can then enjoy something new in the evening.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You may have to deal with something difficult in the morning. Maintain your cool if partners are recalcitrant.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You have much work to do in the morning, but later can get off to be with good friends and have fun.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) The daytime is best for recreation you like, and the evening is fine for taking care of duties at hand.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) There is much to be done at home, so get right at it, then later you can enjoy recreation you like.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Be sure to count your change while out shopping, and don't drop any bundles on the way home. Drive with care.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Take care you do not invest unwisely during the day. Drive with care if you go to see good friends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Place your energies on gaining personal wishes during the day. Later, you get a fine idea on becoming financially successful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Analyze your progress and know how to proceed in the future for more success. Later try to gain your intimate aims.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Make better arrangements with pals so that you gain your most cherished aims. Don't neglect shopping.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Some worldly matter requires tact to handle properly, so give it just that. Enjoy the company of good friends.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Study into every facet of that new project you want to take, and later take care of worldly affairs.

THE Daily Crossword by Ernie Furtado

ACROSS

1. Save
2. Title
3. Emulate Elie
4. Migrant
5. Letters
6. Anxiety
7. Jockey
8. Comp. pt.
9. Wagon
10. Close by to
11. Weaver's reed
12. Core
13. Sampled
14. Pupil's
15. Weapon
16. Plus
17. Music halls
18. Wire
19. Taro food
20. Caper
21. Clasp
22. Goldberg and
23. Walker
24. Minor
25. USSR
26. During
27. Refuse
28. Br. gun
29. Bone for one
30. Banal
31. Salt
32. East
33. Bear
34. Escorted
35. Synthetic
36. Fiber
37. A Gardner
38. Steelhouse
39. order
40. Pendulous
41. Auxiliary verb

DOWN

1. Urban area
2. Related
3. One or White
4. Cuspids
5. Looked at
6. suggestively
7. School paper
8. Clever
9. Mockingly
10. Comp. pt.
11. Manger

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

11. Hardon
12. Range
13. Land: abbr.
14. Unoccupied
15. Fold
16. RBE
17. Georgia or
18. Bee Gees
19. of Capt
20. Tilt structure
21. Daniel's
22. farewell
23. Is in demand
24. Notable
25. Aqueduct
26. Clamor
27. Iron coin
28. Hint
29. Earth
30. degradation
31. Actor Cronyn
32. Stringed
33. Instrument
34. Comment
35. Division word
36. Theophrastus
37. miller

38. Apollo oracle
39. Autocrat
40. Fold
41. Stravinsky
42. Eng. dramatist
43. Be brave
44. Border in heraldry
45. East of Acon
46. Nonpareil
47. Timid
48. Commonlaw
49. state: abbr.

OECD says Italy should cut borrowings urgently

PARIS (R) — The Italian government should take urgent steps to cut its borrowing requirement and bring down inflation further to restore its economic competitiveness, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said in its annual report on the country.

The report, published here, said that cutting the borrowing requirement to seven per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from its present 13.5 per cent would entail increasing taxes and bringing government spending under tighter control.

"Radical reforms are above all needed on the expenditure side,"

it said, pointing out that the widespread trend towards centralising expenditure and centralising revenues was making the control of spending more difficult. In addition official programmes needed to be more accurately costed in advance.

"At the same time inflation must be reined back durably and particularly the pace of wage growth, so as to restore competitiveness..." the report said.

The OECD forecasts a fall in inflation to 8.25 per cent this year and 7.5 per cent in 1986 from 10.9 per cent in 1984, but it will still be above the official seven per cent target.

U.S. firms capitalise on acquisitions and mergers

NEW YORK (R) — U.S. businessmen are still finding it cheaper to buy other companies than expand their own operations, making 1985 another hot year for takeovers.

The pace of mergers, acquisitions and buyouts so far this year has been faster even than in 1984, which set a record with at least 2,994 such transactions.

The most up-to-date information shows 805 deals through the first three months of 1985, well ahead of last year's 692 for the first quarter, according to Mergers and Acquisitions magazine of Philadelphia.

"In the current economic climate, it is generally cheaper and more efficient to buy rather than to start a business from scratch," said Mr. Martin Sikora, editor of the magazine.

Analysts interviewed by Reuters cited three major factors for this upsurge of takeover activity — low rates of return on new building, the Reagan administration's hands-off policy towards company mergers and finance provided by the major banks.

Over the last four years, federal officials have contended that mergers are good for the economy and have relaxed controls, in sharp contrast to the tough anti-trust stance adopted by previous administrations to prevent business concentrations.

Under current Justice Department guidelines, Washington will only challenge a merger when it is likely to cut competition and cost consumers money.

Very important, too, the analysts said, has been the aggressiveness of major banks seeking ventures in which to invest. Banks provide the key financial backing.

United Airlines' purchase of Hertz, the world's biggest car rental firm, from RCA was the latest example of one company trying to expand through the purchase of another company's assets, the analysts said.

United has made several buys this year to become the dominant U.S. airline, and said the Hertz purchase would be a "natural extension" of its business.

Virtually the same words were

used three weeks ago by chairman Roger Smith to explain why General Motors, the world's biggest carmaker, was buying Hughes Aircraft in the most expensive U.S. non-oil merger at \$5 billion.

Texas Air's decision to buy TWA was seen by analysts as an economical way of creating the second biggest U.S. airline.

"Clearly it is far cheaper for Texas Air to buy TWA than it would be to finance a new fleet, get all the regulatory approval, build ground facilities and find the talent to run it," said one analyst.

While the administration has taken a relaxed view of the takeover boom, several economists have expressed alarm at the rapid pace with which companies are changing hands.

Mr. Frederick Scherer, economics professor at Swarthmore College, said takeovers were short-sighted, often carried out in order to realise quick profits. And they ignored long-term debt problems, he added.

"Short-run profit maximisation leads to weaker, less competitive companies in the long run," Mr. Scherer said, referring to use of long-term debt issues by companies to pay for takeovers.

Harvard business school professor Dr. Warren Law said many takeovers cause dramatic increases in debt which decrease the target company's flexibility and its willingness to take risk.

But the Reagan administration contends there is "powerful evidence" that corporate takeovers benefit the economy.

The administration said in the annual economic report of the president published in February that "the current state of knowledge strongly indicates that further federal regulation of the takeover process... would be poor economic policy."

Mr. Sikora said there was clear evidence mergers were likely to continue at least until the end of this year at the same rapid clip of the past three years.

"My own feeling is that temporarily we will stay around this level for the rest of this year and perhaps for a while next year as well," he said.

Trans-Atlantic trade war aggravates

LUXEMBOURG (R) — The European Community (EC) Thursday announced higher tariffs on nuts and lemons imported from the United States in retaliation for Washington's restrictions on imports of pasta from the 10-nation bloc.

Community import duty on U.S. lemons was more than doubled to 20 per cent from eight per cent. Import duty on walnuts shipped from the United States was more than trebled to 30 per cent, also up from eight per cent.

The higher tariffs, due to take effect in the next few days, were formally approved at a meeting of Community environment ministers here Thursday as part of a speedy response to the U.S. move announced on June 20, Community officials said.

Sales of U.S. nuts and lemons to the Community were worth \$33.3 million last year, they added.

The counter-offensive in the

so-called Trans-Atlantic "spaghetti war" was sparked off by U.S. objections to special arrangements favouring imports into the Community of citrus fruit from neighbouring Mediterranean states outside the bloc.

The 10-nation Community says citrus agreements for Israel, Tunisia and Morocco are part of its development aid for the Mediterranean area.

Increased Community import tariffs on U.S. lemons and walnuts are designed to roughly balance out the impact of Washington's move on Community exports of pasta to the United States, worth an estimated \$28 million a year.

Washington and Brussels have been at odds over the citrus issue for almost 20 years.

The Reagan administration justified its move last week saying the Community had refused to accept a ruling from the world trade body GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) that Community tariffs on oranges and lemons be cut no later than October 1985.

Bush seeks to avert protectionism

Meanwhile U.S. Vice-President George Bush called Thursday in Brussels for increased efforts to stave off protectionism and prevent mounting trans-Atlantic tensions turning into an all-out trade war, U.S. diplomats said.

He warned European Commission President Jacques Delors of the fragile mood of the Ame-

rican people in response to a sharp increase in imports and stressed the importance of pressing ahead with a new round of global trade talks.

"The loss of overseas markets has aggravated that mood," a senior U.S. diplomat told reporters. Washington blames the Community's export subsidy system for hurting American midwest farmers, while Europeans say the high U.S. dollar has given European products the edge.

France blocked moves to set a date for new international trade talks at a seven-nation Western economic summit in Bonn in May to prevent an onslaught on Community agriculture policies.

Mr. Bush's seven-nation European tour is taking place against a background of lengthening disputes between the world's two greatest trading powers.

Comecon nations sign cooperation agreements

WARSAW (R) — Members of the communist trading bloc Comecon Thursday ended a three-day conference in Warsaw aimed at boosting economic integration and blocking Western pressures.

The 10 Comecon states signed three agreements which Western economists said were further moves in the body's decades-old drive to bind their economies together.

The official Polish news agency PAP said two accords were respectively about cooperation in making flexible computerised systems for industrial production and on working together in using nat-

ural as engine fuel in transport.

A third agreement covered legal aspects of economic coordination, while the 10 countries also endorsed a previous accord reached on Comecon cooperation with Mozambique.

Leaders of the 10 states — the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Cuba, Mongolia and Vietnam — all called for further integration to block what they called Western attempts to undermine them.

The agreement on flexible computerised systems appeared potentially the most important of

the three, Western economists said. The systems are designed so that they can be quickly reprogrammed to make new products in demand.

The conference, held at prime ministerial level, also covered ways to conserve raw materials and energy, a serious problem for many Eastern European countries which depend on the Soviet Union for oil supplies.

Soviet oil output is stagnant, and Moscow has demanded that it receive high-quality machinery and industrial consumer goods from the Eastern Europeans in return for oil supplies.

Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Tikhonov told the conference production methods could be made more efficient and the quality of goods should be raised to world standards.

Prime Ministers Mr. Georgy Lazar of Hungary and Mr. Constantin Dascalescu of Romania both criticised Comecon's performance in the key area of food production and exports.

Their speeches to the conference said Comecon had failed to implement agreements reached in Moscow last June to raise prices for farm exports and to stimulate agricultural output.

China faces monetary problems, bankers say

PEKING (R) — China's foreign exchange reserves have dropped and the shortfall is causing a sharp decline in Chinese imports, foreign bankers in Peking said Thursday.

Western and Japanese bankers said they estimated that China's foreign exchange reserves had fallen dramatically to about \$11 or \$12 billion from the last official figure at the end of 1984 of \$14.42 billion.

China is long overdue in announcing its foreign exchange reserves, a figure normally issued four times a year, said the bankers,

who asked not to be named.

They said the drop had delayed foreign contracts in a squeeze on foreign exchange spending which would last at least until next year.

Chinese figures exclude gold. Foreign exchange reserves stood at a record \$16.67 billion at the end of September 1984.

An analyst of Sino-Japanese trade in Tokyo put the foreign exchange figure at \$13.03 billion at end of February this year.

The bankers in Peking estimated the figure had now dropped to \$11 or \$12 billion because

of big purchases of foreign aircraft, locomotives and the telecommunications equipment in the first quarter of the year and increased investment in Hong Kong.

"This time a year ago, we had been given the exchange reserves figure for end-March. The figure had not been published this year because the authorities consider them too low," a Western banker said.

"The problem began last autumn when provincial enterprises were given foreign exchange,

which was spent on consumer imports like televisions and electrical goods which do not generate foreign currency," a Japanese banker said.

"This was stopped in March, when new chiefs were appointed to the Bank of China (the country's foreign exchange bank), and the People's Bank of China (the central bank)," he said.

He said the foreign firms hardest hit would be those, mostly in Japan, exporting to China such consumer goods as electrical equipment, refrigerators and cars.

Pressure emerges to amend tin trading rules

LONDON (R) — Pressure for changes in tin trading on the London Metal Exchange (LME) emerged Thursday amid suggestions that an abuse of market rules accounted for record prices being paid Wednesday before business was suspended.

The International Tin Council (ITC), in a statement Thursday, backed an official investigation launched by the LME and suggested changes to trading rules to prevent a recurrence of events leading to the buying scramble by dealers unable to meet delivery dates.

Prices fell back sharply after trading resumed Thursday with

standard-grade tin for current delivery sold for as little as £9,670 a tonne, compared with a record high of £10,350 Wednesday.

The world body said: "Based on the information the ITC received it feels the present increase of the cash price is a result of over-selling in the past to the extent where one perhaps could say that the LME has been abused."

The ITC, which groups consumers and producers such as Malaysia, Bolivia and Indonesia, oversees world trade in tin by setting quotas and floor and ceiling prices which it tries to enforce through sales from and additions to a buffer stock.

The LME is the world's leading forum for trading in metals.

Traders said the sharp rise in tin was due to many dealers having made commitments in March to deliver metal in late June. These "short" sellers, many of them speculators, were pledging tin they did not own, a common commodity-market play.

As delivery time approached, they had to buy to cover their commitments, only to find prices rising and a classic "squeeze" operating with large amounts of tin in the hands of one holder — in this case the International Tin Council (ITC) buffer stock manager Mr. Pieter De Koning.

Mr. De Koning has repeatedly warned of the dangers of selling tin without actually owning it. The LME permitted trading to resume Thursday but imposed a £90 a tonne limit on the cash premium a trader would have to pay to delay a delivery for a day.

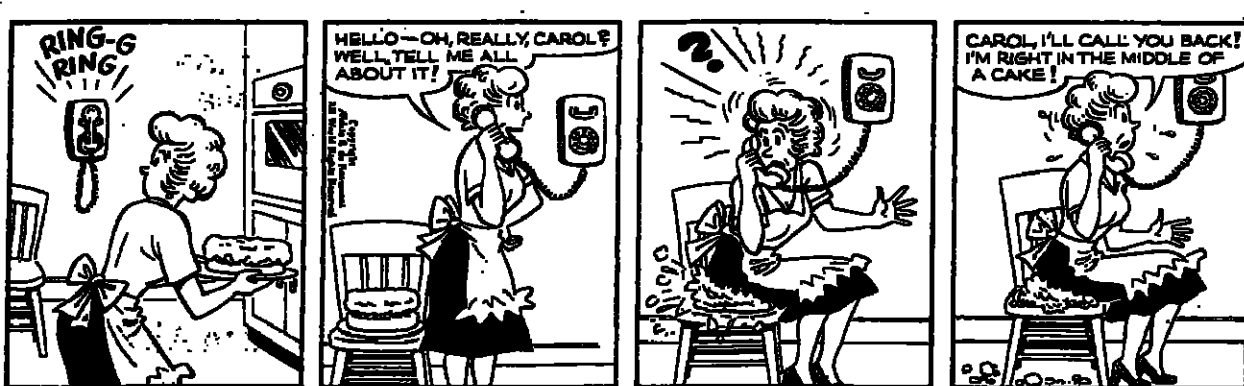
Traders said this would both limit losses of those short of metal to meet buying orders and enable owners of the metal to make a satisfactory profit.

Traders estimated short-sellers might have lost £700 a tonne as they rushed to buy time to avoid having to meet immediate delivery dates.

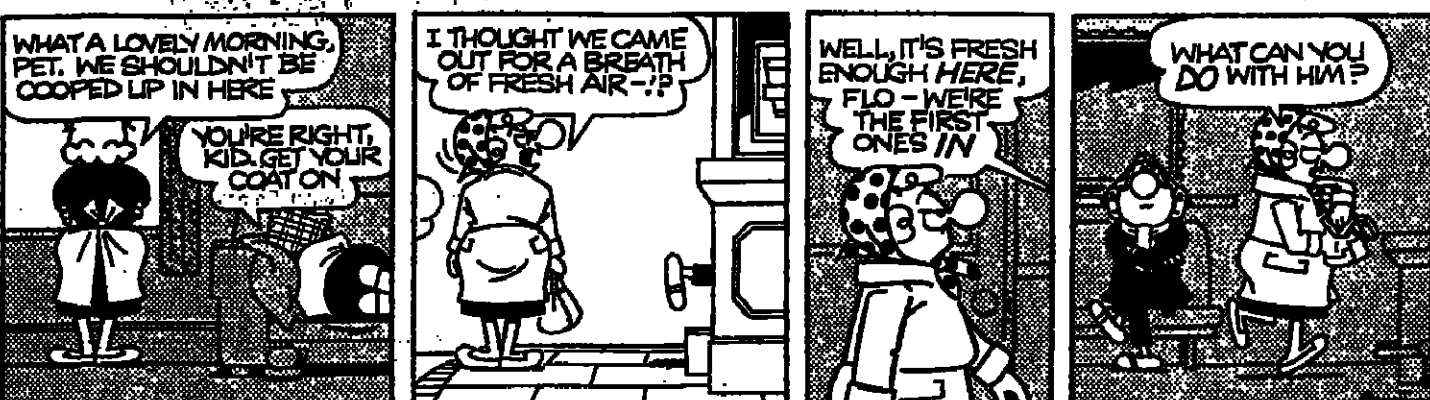
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

IPEEC
TINFE
HERTHS
MIDOWS

WHAT A GOOD SHRINK IS SUPPOSED TO BE.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: LATCH GRIMY PHYSIC SHANTY
Answer: What a safe deposit box might be called—A RICH NITCH

U.S. hits back at Soviet warning over Geneva talks

New clash erupts after Gorbachev's 'veiled threat' to suspend resumed arms negotiations

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — In a new clash over the stalemate Geneva arms talks, the United States has used some of its sharpest language against Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev since he came into office last March.

Responding to a series of charges against Washington's stance in the negotiations, the State Department expressed astonishment at Mr. Gorbachev's "distorted characterisation" of the talks and "thinly veiled threat" to suspend them.

The lengthy statement on Thursday twice mentioned Mr. Gorbachev by name in a detailed rebuttal of his charges.

But spokesman Edward Djerejian declined to be drawn when asked how the exchange might affect the possibility of a summit meeting between Mr. Gorbachev and President Reagan, merely noting both sides had expressed a desire for a meeting.

The statements from both superpowers reinforced earlier indications that the negotiations remain deadlocked over the issue of President Reagan's so-called "Star Wars" missile defence programme.

Although the State Department read into Mr. Gorbachev's threat to "reassess the entire situation" an implied warning of a Soviet walkout at Geneva, officials said a date had been set for resumption of the negotiations following a July 16 recess.

"The Soviet Union's apparent threat to suspend the ongoing new negotiations casts doubt on its seriousness in the talks and its readiness to implement the agreement," establishing their objectives, Djerejian said.

Mr. Gorbachev accused the United States of "marking time" in the negotiations while it pursued a military buildup and said "Star Wars," formally known as

military preparations whose aim is to ensure the strategic supremacy of the USA.

His speech was carried by the news agency TASS and broadcast for 75 minutes in a specially extended news programme.

The Soviet leader said Moscow would have to "re-evaluate the whole situation" if the U.S. side did not change, but he did not spell out what kind of action might be taken.

Dismissing Washington's assertion that the SDI had a defensive character, he warned that Moscow would effectively counter-attack it.

Gorbachev to visit Paris

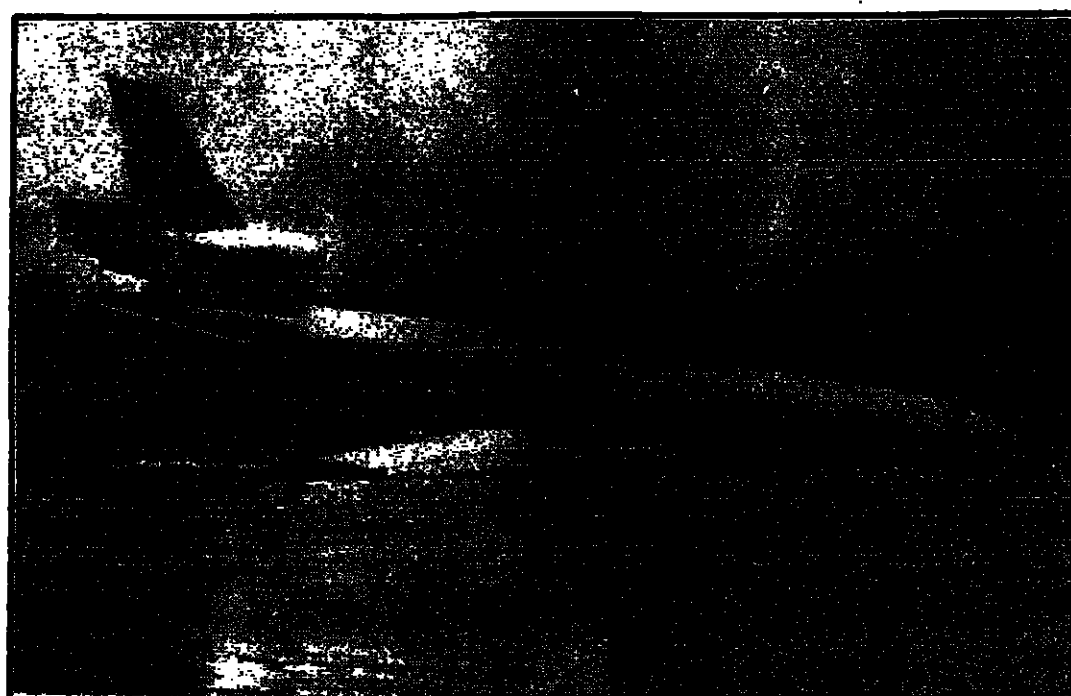
Mr. Gorbachev's attack on the U.S. came after an announcement in Paris that he is scheduled to his first trip to the West as Kremlin chief when he visits France later this year, a move likely to boost President Francois Mitterrand's plan to give Europe a stronger role in international affairs.

Mr. Gorbachev's visit to France in the autumn was announced Wednesday by Stepan Chernomyrdin, a senior Soviet Communist Party official visiting France.

Announcing the trip after a long meeting with Mr. Mitterrand, Mr. Chernomyrdin said the French leader had assured him of "the peaceful aims" of his Eureka technology and research project.

Eureka, Mr. Mitterrand's brain-child, was launched as a counter-proposal to President Reagan's invitation to West European allies to join his SDI system.

Mr. Mitterrand's criticism of Mr. Reagan's "Star Wars" plan and his Eureka blueprint bid have been appreciated in Moscow and have helped improve cool Franco-Soviet relations.



NOSE DIVE BEFORE TAKE-OFF: An American Airlines DC-10 skids nose-first into marshall off the runway at Kamez Marin International Airport, Puerto Rico, Thursday after its tyres blew out just before take-off. Several passengers of the Dallas-bound flight were treated for minor injuries and shock (AP wirephoto)

Sri Lankan rebels hint at boycott of talks

MADRAS (AP) — Four Tamil guerrilla groups fighting for a separate state in Sri Lanka indicated Friday that they may boycott peace talks with the government tentatively set for next month in Bhutan.

"We cannot foolishly step into conference chambers where frauds on Tamils have taken place in our history," Sri Sabaratnam, leader of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO), told the Associated Press.

Mr. Sabaratnam, who said he was speaking for four of the five rebel groups, did not specifically rule out attending the conference, but he said he saw no point in attending the talks before the Sri Lankan government offered "concrete proposals" as a basis for the meeting.

The Sri Lankan government announced a cease-fire with all Tamil separatist guerrillas on June 18 to pave the way for talks to resolve the country's ethnic crisis. On Wednesday, the government in Colombo said the talks would begin "very shortly."

The peace talks were arranged by India, from which Tamil militants allegedly operate, carrying out hit-and-run attacks in neighbouring Sri Lanka on security forces and majority Sinhalese.

"They should first put forth their proposals and we are willing to examine them before deciding on our participation," Mr. Sabaratnam said in an interview.

Mr. Sabaratnam said he was speaking not only on behalf of his group, but also the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the Eelam Peoples Revolutionary Liberation Front and Eelam Revolutionary Organisation Front.

Europeans complain over 'unfair' U.S. visa system

WASHINGTON (R) — Visiting European politicians had an "angry exchange" with members of Congress this week over charges that the U.S. visa system is unfair, according to a participant.

Lord Bethell, a British Conservative member of the 10-nation European Parliament, told Reuters two Communist Party members in the group of 25 parliamentarians invited on a semi-annual exchange visit had trouble obtaining U.S. visas.

Mr. Bethell said permits for Rene Piquet of France and Sergio Segre of Italy had been delayed because of a U.S. law which requires a special waiver before Communist Party members can enter the United States.

"We had an angry exchange with Congress" on both the special permission required for Communists and the lack of reciprocity in general in the U.S. visa system, Mr. Bethell said.

It was the latest salvo in a long-simmering dispute over U.S. insistence on visas for visiting West Europeans, and all other foreigners except Mexicans and Canadians, while European countries permit free entry to Americans.

Eanes decides to dissolve parliament

LISBON (R) — Portuguese President Antonio Ramalho Eanes has decided to dissolve parliament, opening the way for an early general election, after a crisis caused by the collapse of the government coalition two weeks ago.

In a statement broadcast Thursday night, Eanes said he made the decision after failing to find a solution which would have avoided parliament being dissolved.

Three of Portugal's four main political parties had insisted that Mr. Eanes dissolve parliament and call elections, spurning appeals to agree on the formation of a new government.

Parliament will be dissolved after it has ratified Portugal's treaty of accession to the European Community. The ratification debate is scheduled for July 10.

Mr. Eanes said he would consider Socialist Prime Minister Mario Soares' recent offer to resign at an appropriate time. Until then, the Socialist-Social Democratic coalition government will stay in office.

Mr. Eanes set no date for elections, which were not due until 1987.

Mr. Eanes and the Socialists, the country's biggest party, said earlier they feared an early election would disrupt the country's economic and political stability.

Presidential and local elections were already due at the end of the year. The general elections are expected to be in October.

The Social Democrats, who formally withdrew from the coalition two weeks ago after a row over labour and agrarian policies, and the opposition Communists and Christian Democrats said parliament's dissolution was the only way out of the crisis.

The president's power to dissolve the assembly expires on July 14, six months before his mandate is due to end.

British police on high alert around IRA suspects

LONDON (R) — British police Friday threw a tight security net around detainees suspected of guerrilla attacks that included an attempt to kill Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher last October.

At Paddington, Green, where two suspects were held in London's top security police station, marksmen snatched on surrounding rooftops, roads were blocked off and cars and passers-by were all searched.

Armed officers watched over eight suspects in Glasgow. Unconfirmed reports said they would soon be transferred to London to face trial. Six others are held in Lancashire, northern England.

Britain's director of public prosecutions was considering whether formal charges should be laid, a spokesman said.

Police said that under the prevention of terrorism act most would have to be released or charged by the weekend.

Police said they have exposed a plot by the Irish Republican Army (IRA), fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland, to bomb a dozen English tourist resorts during the height of the holiday season.

One bomb was safely defused in a London hotel near Buckingham Palace, the queen's residence. No others have been found but police were checking thousands of hotels and guest houses.

Among those held in Glasgow was a 34-year-old Irishman alleged to be the master bomber for the IRA, police sources said.

He is suspected of planting the bomb at the seaside city of Brighton which narrowly missed killing Mrs. Thatcher and her cabinet in October. Five hotel guests died in the blast.

Known as "The Chancer" because of the risks he is prepared to take, he is thought to have used the alias "Roy Walsh" when he checked into Brighton's Grand Hotel to plant the bomb one month before it exploded.

Zimbabwe whites return Ian Smith to parliament

HARARE (R) — Former Rhodesian rebel premier Ian Smith has been returned to parliament but without his chief ally after elections for 20 white seats in Zimbabwe.

In the eight seats whose results were announced Thursday night, Mr. Smith's Conservative Alliance of Zimbabwe (CAZ) won five while its main rival, the Independent Zimbabwe Group (IZG), took two. Registrar-General Tobias Mudede told reporters. One seat went to a non-aligned independent candidate.

Mr. Smith, a member of parliament since 1948, polled 1,441 votes, a majority of 893 over IZG rival Paddy Shields in Bulawayo central constituency, southwestern Matabeleland.

His former defence minister and chief ally, P.K. Van der Byl, lost Harare's Mount Pleasant seat to Public Service Minister Chris Andersen, one of two whites in Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's cabinet.

Zimbabwe's 33,000 white registered voters, who had appeared apathetic during a three-week election campaign, turned out in large numbers for the first election supervised by former guerrillas they fought for seven years.

It was probably the last time whites here voted for seats guaranteed under a British-drafted constitution adopted at independence in 1980.

The CAZ and IZG each fielded 20 candidates and five other people stood without party backing. The IZG, representing big business interests, was formed by defectors from Mr. Smith's Rhodesian Front Party.

Canada agrees to work with India against terrorism

NEW DELHI (AP) — The Canadian government, under fire here for failing to curb Sikh militants in Canada, has agreed to cooperate with India in combatting terrorism, a Canadian spokesman said Friday.

The spokesman, who asked not to be identified, confirmed Indian news reports that the Canadian decision was conveyed to Indian Foreign Secretary Ramesh Bhambhani during a meeting Thursday with Canadian High Commissioner William Warden.

During the session, Mr. Warden said Canada would cooperate regarding "all aspects of the activities of terrorists," including Sikh militants living there, the spokesman added.

Thursday's meeting came four days after an Air-India Jumbo jet on a flight from Montreal, Canada, to India crashed off the Irish coast, killing all 329 people aboard.

Investigators suspect the Boeing 747 exploded in mid-air, and callers claiming to represent two Sikh separatist groups said they planted a bomb aboard the plane.

Although one of the groups, the All-India Sikh Students' Federation, has denied placing the call, a worldwide manhunt is underway for two Sikhs, Amarnand Singh and Lal Singh, in connection with the crash.

Salman Haider, a spokesman for the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, confirmed that Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had sent a letter to Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, but refused comment on its contents.

Israeli government refuses to pay for Koch's chopper ride

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's Foreign Ministry has refused to foot the bill for a helicopter ride by New York Mayor Ed Koch during his visit last month and says Trade and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon will have to pay. A Foreign Ministry official confirmed the reports but declined to give further details. Mr. Koch flew to the Israeli-Egyptian border at the Red Sea and from there to Sharon's farm in the Negev desert at the invitation of the former defence minister. The flight in the rented helicopter cost 5.5 billion shekels (\$4,700), reports said. Foreign Ministry said it had told Sharon in advance that it thought the helicopter expense was unjustified and that it would not pay for the trip, the Harretz newspaper said.

Diary forger says he identified himself with Hitler

HAMBURG (R) — The forger of the fake Hitler diaries has told a Hamburg court he identified so closely with the Nazi dictator that he sometimes had to pinch himself to remember who he was. "If I had kept working (on the diaries) I think I would now be Hitler," said Nazi memorabilia dealer Konrad Kujau, who has admitted forging the 60 volumes. "Sometimes I had to give myself a pinch to escape this total identification," Kujau said in the final statement. The verdict in the 10-month-old trial is expected on July 8. The prosecution is seeking a six-year jail term for Kujau and seven years for journalist Gerd Heidemann on fraud charges over the nine-million-mark (\$3-million) sale of the diaries to Stern magazine. Under West German law defendants do not have to plead guilt or innocence. The defence has asked for an acquittal.

Prostitute entitled to lost pay refund, court rules

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (R) — Switzerland's top court has ruled that a prostitute unable to work after a traffic accident was entitled to compensation for lost pay. The world's oldest profession might be immoral but was not illegal, the federal court said, overturning a previous decision by a civil court. However it remained to be determined whether the prostitute filing for damages in the case really earned the monthly 12,000 Swiss francs (\$5,000), she claimed, it added.

Parents of accident victims demand Peretz' resignation

TEL AVIV (R) — Parents of 22 children killed in a bus-train collision have called on Israel's ultra-orthodox Interior Minister Yitzhak Peretz to resign after he declared they died because Sabbath had been desecrated in Israel. Peretz, a rabbi, said he was unrepentant and repeated Thursday his belief that the tragedy was caused by divine intervention. An official inquiry blamed human error for the June 11 collision at an unguarded railway crossing between a train and bus taking children on a school outing to the beach. Twenty-two children aged 12 and 13 died in the accident. Their parents met Thursday and demanded Peretz resign.

'Blackmail' is a racist term, lawyer tells court

LONDON (R) — The term "blackmail" is racist and should not be used in British courts, a black lawyer told a trial judge at London's Old Bailey court. "As a black person myself, defending black clients, I do not accept blackmail — it connotes a derogatory stigma to our people," Berisford Bryan said. Bryan, who was defending two West Indians charged with blackmail, assault and kidnapping, threatened to pull out of the case if forced to repeat the word. The judge told Bryan his court was not the place to change a statute. He said Bryan could use whatever words he wanted but said that blackmail — a legal term since the 17th century — remained the word in the charge against the defendants. Blackmail is a combination of the word black and an old French term for a copper coin. It was originally applied to money extorted from farmers in return for immunity from raids.

U.S. house votes limited ban on sending troops to Nicaragua

WASHINGTON (R) — A divided and sometimes emotional House of Representatives approved a qualified ban on introducing U.S. combat troops into Nicaragua as it completed action on a \$292.6 billion defence bill for 1986.

The bill, adopted Thursday night 278 to 106 after two weeks of work, moves the United States towards resumed chemical weapons production after a 16-year hiatus, radically curbs President Reagan's MX nuclear missile programme and imposes a moratorium on anti-satellite weapons testing.

Reflecting concern over an alleged navy spy ring, it also reinstates the death penalty for military personnel found guilty of espionage and permits establishment of a sweeping programme of polygraph tests for 4

million Pentagon employees.

The measure slices nearly \$30 billion from Mr. Reagan's budget request of \$322 billion, freezing military spending at 1985 levels.

Despite the overall reduction, the Democratic-led House of Representatives voted \$2.5 billion for Mr. Reagan's controversial "Star Wars" space-based missile defence system, an increase of nearly 80 percent over \$1.4 billion voted for 1985.

The Republican-led Senate approved \$2.97 billion for the programme, also called strategic defence initiative, when its \$302.5 billion defence bill passed on June 5.

This research programme will be among a host of contested items congressional negotiators must reconcile before a final bill is sent to Mr. Reagan for his signature.

Managua boosts defence

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaragua has deployed more armour and artillery in the capital and other towns to counter a possible American invasion, witnesses said.

They said armoured cars and 152 mm cannon were set up Thursday at strategic points throughout the capital and in the northwestern provinces of Leon and Chinandega.

President Daniel Ortega said last week that U.S. ships sailing for Lebanon could be part of preparations for an invasion of Nicaragua.

Grenada murder trial adjourned until August

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada (R) — Former leaders accused of murdering Prime Minister Maurice Bishop in a palace coup 20 months ago have won more time to prepare their defence.

At a hearing Thursday, in a specially-built courthouse at Richmond Hill Prison, Chief Justice Sir Archibald Nedd agreed to adjourn the trial until Aug. 8.

The high court trial has already been delayed by challenges from the defence and Chief Justice Nedd said he would allow no further postponements.

Eight months after being committed for trial, some of the 19 defendants have not chosen their counsel.

The 19 include former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, his wife Phyllis and ex-army commander Hudson Austin. They are accused of murdering Mr. Bishop and seven other officials during a coup in October 1983 which resulted in a U.S.-led invasion a week later.

Thursday's three-hour sitting heard bitter accusations from the Coards and chief defence counsel Howard Hamilton of brutality by prison warders and bans on visits by relatives.

As he was led from the packed courtroom, Mr. Coard said the defence had other surprises in store.

HONG KONG — The Soviet navy is experimenting with new tactics to sharpen its ability to fight American aircraft carriers and to learn how to use its own big carriers when they become operational at the end of the century, military sources said Friday.

They said that the experiments are taking place in the Soviet navy's two weakest strategic areas, the Northern Pacific and the Norwegian Sea, where heavy fighting would take place in the event of a war between the United States and its allies and the Soviet Union and its allies.

In a war the Soviet navy would be attempting to get to the Atlantic from its bases in the Barents Sea and to the Pacific from its bases in the Sea of Japan and the Sea of Okhotsk. The Americans and their allies would be trying to

stop them.

The sources said the new tactics feature a Soviet navy force acting as an American carrier and its escort vessels charging towards the Soviet coast.

Powerful Soviet forces, including surface ships, submarines and aircraft, dash out far from the coasts to repel the mock invaders.

The sources said the first phase of the experiment took place in the Northern Pacific three months ago when a Soviet force of nine ships, centred on the light aircraft carrier Novorossiysk, sprinted towards the Sea of Okhotsk from a point north of Hawaii.

"Aircraft, including backfire bombers with long-range anti-ship missiles, submarines and surface ships intercepted the force to the northeast of Japan," said one source.

The sources said a similar force, centred on the Novorossiysk's sister ship Kiev, later sorted from

WOMAN MISSING



A foreign lady, whose photo appears above, left her husband's residence at the Orthodox Club quarter on June 5 in a taxi cab and has not been seen since. Any person who has any information regarding her whereabouts is kindly requested to call the nearest police station or telephone number 639141-639149, Amman police. Reward from her husband will be given to anyone who can give information about her. Those who conceal their knowledge about her whereabouts will be subject to legal proceedings.

Soviets try out new tactics in naval war

By James Foley
Reuters

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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THE TALE OF THE TEN OF HEARTS

DEAR READERS: We have had many requests over the years for these hands we consider to be our favorites. That makes quite a list. For the time being, therefore, we are devoting the Sunday column to a series of famous hands. At the end of the series we will go back to our weekly question and answer column.

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K J 8
♥ A Q 3
♦ 7 4 2
♣ K Q 9 6

EAST
♠ A 10 6 2
♥ Q 9 7 5 4 3
♦ J 8 7
♣ K 10 8 5 3

SOUTH
♠ Void
♥ K 10 6 5
♦ A Q 6
♣ A J 8 7 5 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 4 NT Pass
4 ♠ Pass 4 NT Pass
6 ♠ Pass PNT Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠.

The Ten of Hearts looked forlorn as he sat in the barber's chair having his magnificent red beard trimmed. He was complaining of the tribulations that had befallen him.

"All of the other cards have magnificent stories to tell. But my finest hour went unreported, because the seer's seer simply showed that there was no swing on the hand."

"It was in the early days of my career, when I was just beginning to compete on the international scene. We had reached the final of the team event at the big tournament in Monte Carlo."

"At the other table, our op-

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